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Communist aides confess to genocide

MUSKARAT (R) — Two top aides of Syrian President Hafez Assad, a former Communist Party member, have confessed to genocide, a lawyer told a military court Saturday. Former Deputy Prime Minister Imad Matar, former Minister of Education Fawzi Qadumi, and Communist Party organizational chief Hafez al-Hakim and former Vice President Hafez al-Hakim, were the first under Communist administration officials to go on trial. A lawyer who read out the charges to the court said the first trial was scheduled for next week, but they did not immediately plead guilty. The trial was adjourned after it had been postponed twice. The charges against the two top aides were that they had ordered the killing of thousands of Christians in the Transjordanian town of Tadmor. The killings in Tadmor occurred in the revolution which toppled Communist Dec. 22. He said his powerful ally Assad was executed Dec. 25.

هذه امنا الوطن

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UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN
JERUSALEM

French defence minister in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP) — French Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement arrived Saturday for talks with Iraqi officials on advanced technology for its defence and aerospace industry. The visit came seven weeks after Iraq launched its first space rocket and announced it had built a second missile, developed with Argentinian and Egyptian aid, capable of reaching Israel. Chevenement, the first French minister to visit Iraq since the end of hostilities in the Gulf war, is accompanied by senior officials and high-ranking officials of his ministry. He will meet with President Saddam Hussein as well as defence minister Abdul Samad and senior Iraqi army officers. Chevenement also will tour Iraqi air bases and army camps. France is the second largest arms supplier to Iraq after the Soviet Union. During the Gulf war it sent millions of dollars in sophisticated weapons including warplanes and air-to-air missiles. Iraq is seeking advanced technology for its arms industries and France is seen as a major possible supplier of such products, especially in the satellite and aerospace industry.

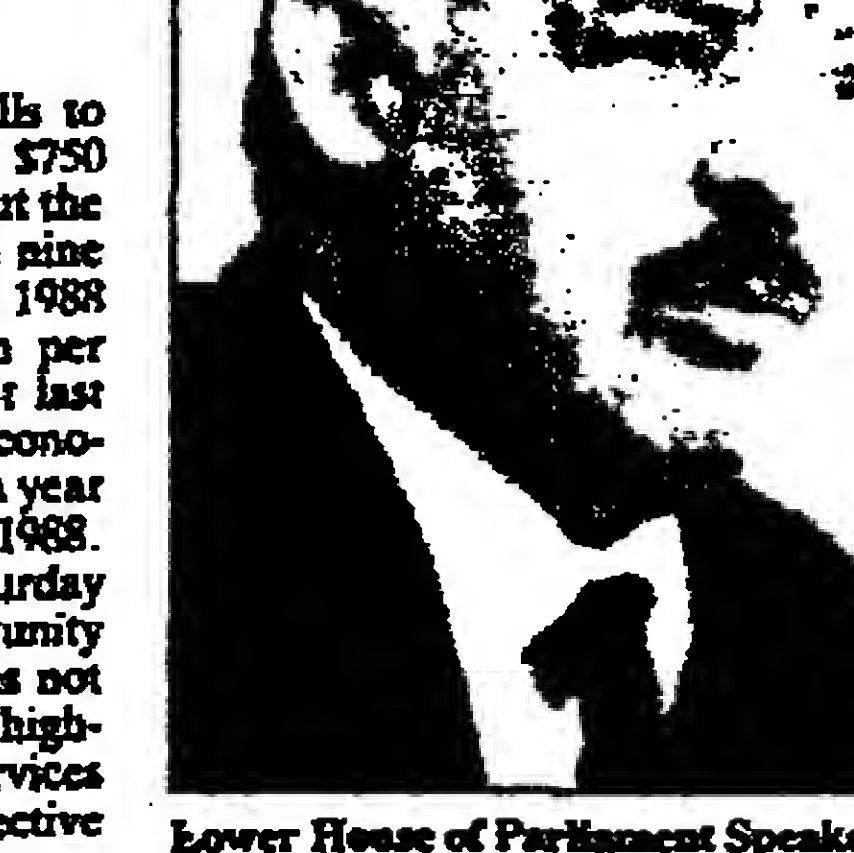
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Lower House committee proposes budget trimmings

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Finance Committee of the Lower House of Parliament Saturday proposed slight trimmings in the 1990 draft budget and the bill House launched a marathon session of debate on the recommendations. The House was meeting late into Saturday night, and officials said the deputies wanted to conclude the debate by Sunday evening so as not to disrupt plans for a meeting of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee Monday. Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Zuhayr will head the Syrian side to the meeting. The Finance Committee's report was presented to the House by its member, Abdullah Akayleh. The report said tribute to the "high degree of responsibility and reality" reflected in the austerity budget of JD 1.105 billion, which forecasts a deficit of JD 199 million. But it criticized past "mistakes" which led the Kingdom to dire economic straits.

The report said past policies and measures "almost led us to a complete lack of security and trust in the ability of the government to control the economy properly and develop it." "The Kingdom's debt has expanded all internationally recognized limits and moved into a dangerous zone," said the report, which estimated repayment of the Kingdom's \$8.3 billion foreign debt, even after rescheduling, would be 27 per cent of the country's total income from exports — seven points above the internationally accepted safety line. The committee proposed that the budget be reduced by about JD 15 million by slashing administrative budgets for a number of ministries and departments. Among the proposals was a JD 1.5 million reduction for the JD 45 million allocation for the Public Security Department (PSD) and related organizations. Several senior PSD officials attended Saturday's session and were seen lobbying deputies against the proposal, which, according to in-



Lower House of Parliament Speaker Saleh al-Arari (left) Saturday presides over the House session during discussions of the 1990 draft budget (photo by Yusef Al 'Alam)

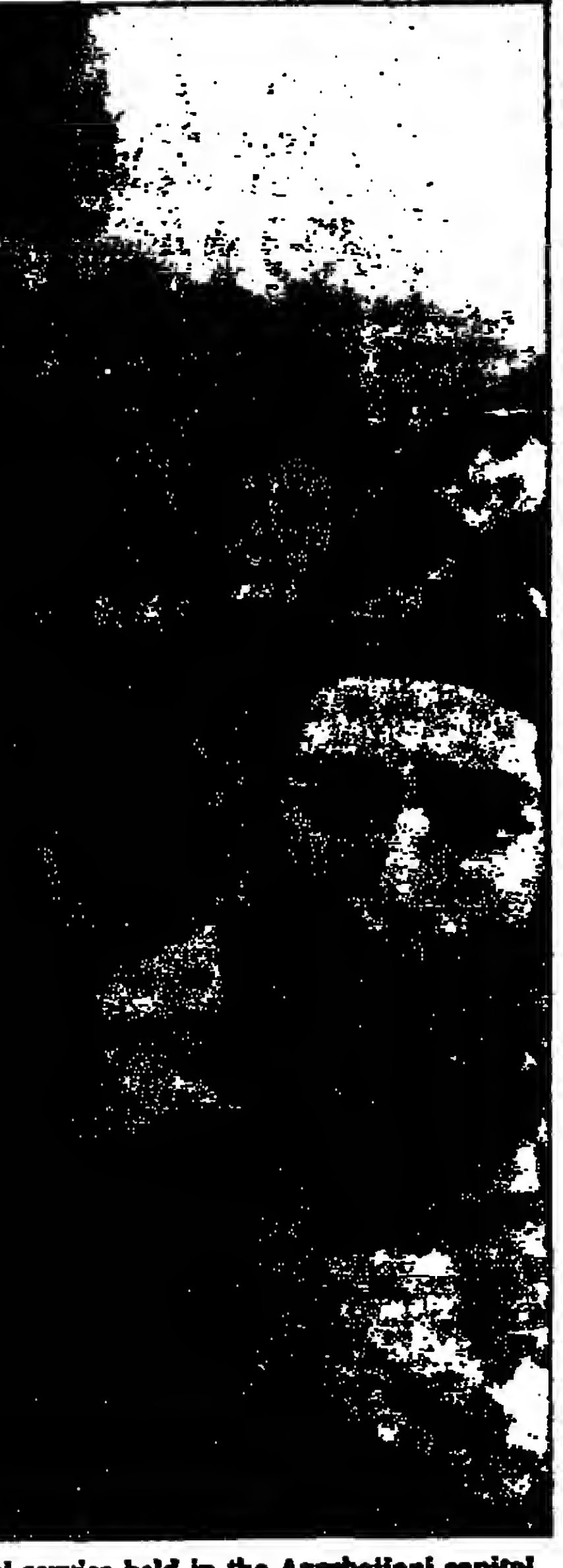


formation sources, will deprive the department of about JD 1 million. The report proposed a study to increase the JD 60 million subsidies for basic foodstuffs but did not suggest any specific figure. The budget projects a JD 411 million deficit to be covered by aid and loans. The committee said the government's projection of JD 160 million in foreign grant aid was probably conservative since Jordan received JD 253 million last year. The committee asked Parliament to pass laws restoring lawmakers' budgetary authority over agencies such as universities, public companies and the Royal Jordanian Airline. It complained that it had no say on their budgets, which accounted for a third of government spending. The committee generally approved the government's 1990 economic targets, worked out in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund, but said it was doubtful over the country's ability to achieve them. Those targets include calls to build foreign reserves to \$750 million from \$350 million, cut the budget deficit before aid to nine per cent from 20 per cent in 1988 and trim inflation to seven per cent from about 25 per cent last year, as well as raising real economic growth to four per cent a year from minus two per cent in 1988. Deputies who spoke Saturday appeared to use the opportunity to air their opinion on issues not related to the budget and highlight the need for public services and facilities in their respective constituencies. Deputy Awni Al Bashir said more attention should be given to ensure that food subsidies benefit the most needy sector of the society. Deputy Ahmad Oweid Al Abbadi, a constant critic of the government, called for trial of former officials whom he accused of corruption and mismanagement. Faisal Ben Jazi called for continued support for the Armed Forces and security departments. Ahmad Kafawneh referred to the budget as "traditional" and said it fell "short of tackling the problems of poverty and consolidating the socio-economic structure." Thougan Hindawi criticised the Finance Committee's report for not specifying the roots and causes of the economic problem. He said: "We would have thought that the committee would explain the reasons for unemployment and the cost of living and propose solutions." See excerpts from the deputies' speeches in inside pages. "We have to reconsider how we pay these debts," said deputy Muhammad Faris Tarawneh, who said the Kingdom should study the idea of renegotiating the austerity plan it worked out last year with the IMF. The committee complained that about one-third of govern-

2 Palestinians shot dead in village near Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli forces shot and killed two Palestinians Saturday in a clash with Arabs in a West Bank village on Jerusalem's outskirts, the army and Palestinians said. Residents of Abu Dis village said Israeli soldiers opened fire as youths who had thrown stones at them, killing 16-year-old Abdallah Nabil Halabieh instantly. "A border police force clashed with masked Arabs in Abu Dis village and in the clash one of the masked men was wounded," an army spokesman said. "Later, a funeral was held in Abu Dis. The army is investigating the circumstances of the event." Villagers said that after the youth was killed, his uncle, Mohammad Dwyad Halabieh, was called to the site of the clash.

When he tried to approach the body, the Israeli fired again, wounding him in the stomach and chest, they said. A doctor at Arab Jerusalem's Mohamed hospital said Halabieh, 45, died shortly after he was brought to the emergency room. He said another Abu Dis resident was wounded in the leg but released. The army suspended two border policemen this month after they violated open-fire regulations in the West Bank town of Bethlehem in December. They shot without warning at unarmed masked Arabs, fatally wounding one of them. Israelis have killed at least 617 Arabs during the revolt. In Bethlehem, dozens of Palestinian women held a sit-in at the office of the International Committee of the Red Cross in solidarity with Arab prisoners. When troops detained a Palestinian television camerawoman filming the protest, several of the women pounced on a soldier and tried to grab his rifle, witnesses said. The army arrested five women, they said.



Azerbaijan front offers crisis talks with Kremlin

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Azerbaijan's nationalist Popular Front said Saturday it had offered the Kremlin peace talks, exactly a week after Soviet troops and tanks stormed into the southern republic's capital Baku. The front's first formal offer of negotiations held out a prospect of law and order in the city in exchange for a Soviet troop withdrawal and a lifting of the state of emergency. It came after Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov said the Kremlin wanted to crush the front and Soviet troops piled the pressure on Azerbaijan rebels by arresting scores of people in Baku. The offer also followed an announcement by the military commander in Baku that his forces had foiled an attempt by Popular Front "guerrillas" to seize important administrative buildings and prisons in the city. But the tone of the front's declaration, passed at a Friday meeting of its governing board, did not reflect the pressure from authorities and made clear its leaders still claimed to enjoy the support of most Azerbaijanis. The board of the Popular Front has worked out a number of proposals in order to provide the fastest stabilisation of situation in Azerbaijan," the statement said, according to Yusuf Samad-Ogly, a member of the board. The front "is ready to start talks at a corresponding level with those officials who did not compromise themselves," the

statement said, without elaborating. The essence of the proposals the front wants to discuss, Samad-Ogly said, "is that if the troops are withdrawn and the state of emergency lifted, the Popular Front guarantees order." In another development, representatives of the Azerbaijanis and the Armenians, whose bloody ethnic strife prompted the military intervention last week, have tentatively agreed to open negotiations on ending their dispute next week. Baltic activists said that the Azerbaijan People's Front, which has led the nationalist uprising in

(Continued on page 3)

Carbomb explodes near leading Shi'ite cleric's home in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — A car bomb exploded near the home of Lebanon's highest Shi'ite Muslim cleric Saturday, but the assassination attempt failed when the moving vehicle hit a mound of earth and the charge ignited too far from the target, police reported. A police statement said an unidentified driver jumped out of the explosive-packed Renault-12 sedan as it moved into the alley towards a building housing the third-floor apartment of Sheikh Mohammad Mehdi Shamseddin in west Beirut. The car drifted to the left, "hit a sand rampart roadblock and exploded about 150 metres from the house, causing no casualties or serious damage," said the spokesman. Shamseddin, 55, is vice chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council, that leads day-to-day spiritual affairs of the 1.5 million Shi'ite Muslims who make up Lebanon's largest sect. Shamseddin took over after the council's chairman, Imam Musa Sadr, mysteriously disappeared in September 1978 during a visit to Libya. The statement said the car was rigged with 25 kilograms of explosives. It exploded at about 6:30 a.m. (0430 GMT) in the residential district of Tallet Khayyat. "Several cars parked in the area were damaged in the explosion which also shattered window glass. No casualties were reported." "The sheikh was at home at the time of the explosion, but he was not hurt," the statement added. No one claimed responsibility for the car bomb, the first in Lebanon this year. By police count, 80 people were killed and 342 wounded in nine car bombings in Lebanon last year. Security sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they believe the car bombing attack might be an offshoot of the power struggle within the Shi'ite community between pro-Iranian fundamentalists of Hizbollah (Party of God) and the Syrian-backed secular Amal militia.

Shamseddin is a moderate who sympathises with Amal's chief Nabih Berri, who is also minister of water and hydraulic resources in the government of President Elias Hrawi and Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss. Berri-Mohtashemi row Berri is locked in a war of words with former Iranian Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, the hardliner who founded Hizbollah when he was ambassador to Syria in the early 1980s. Berri, in a statement published Saturday, accused Mohtashemi of working to "partition Lebanon's Shi'ites" and branded him as "the Brutus of the Islamic revolution," a reference to the assassin of Julius Caesar. Berri was responding to charges by Mohtashemi that Amal was adopting "a policy against Hizbollah similar to that followed by Israel against the Palestinians."

At least five killed in Kosovo gunbattles

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (R) — At least five ethnic Albanians were killed in gun battles with police Saturday, the fifth day of riots in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province, witnesses said. They said four people were killed in Orshovac and one in Pec where hundreds of Albanians demonstrated to call for the resignation of local leaders, free elections and the release of political prisoners. Radio Pristina said many people, including policemen, were injured in the clashes and at least five were in hospital. It said local Albanian peasants joined demonstrators in Orshovac and that many cars were wrecked by the rioters. "It is feared that people may have been killed," the radio said, adding it could not confirm the reports. It said the Orshovac clash was the fiercest in the five days of riots. It was the worst violence in the southern province since 28 people were killed last March when ethnic Albanians rioted against curbs on their self-rule in favour of Serbia, Yugoslavia's biggest republic. Kosovo, an autonomous pro-

Mandela release snagged

CAPE TOWN (R) — Plans for the early release of jailed black nationalist Nelson Mandela have run into problems, his wife said Saturday after paying him a four-hour visit. "It is quite clear that some problems have cropped up about his immediate release," Winnie Mandela said, without disclosing what the problems were. South African President F.W. de Klerk has promised to free Mandela, 71, from his life sentence for plotting to overthrow white rule. Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee said this week his release was "just a matter of time." Mrs. Mandela looked sombre as she left the Victor Verster prison about 60 kilometres north-east of Cape Town, where her husband is held. Her mood was in sharp contrast to her high spirits when she left the prison on Jan. 8 and told reporters his release was imminent. "I don't think we are talking about months any longer," she said then. On Saturday, however, she said Mandela appeared depressed and she was clearly less optimistic about an early end to his 26-year prison ordeal. "I did not find him as happy as he was the last time... it is quite clear there are a lot of hurdles along the way," she said. Mandela said she could not reveal the nature of the problems that had arisen but added her husband was growing impatient for his freedom. "In his own words, he said: I want to come home and if I could I would be going home with you," she said. She said he asked her to continue with preparations for his release which he set in motion at their last meeting.

Former East German politburo member held

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — Former East German politburo member Joachim Herrmann has been arrested on suspicion of high treason in connection with his running of the state media, the official ADN news agency reported Saturday. His arrest was the latest in a series of moves against many of East Germany's former hardline Communist rulers, ousted last November. ADN also quoted the public prosecutor's office as saying an arrest warrant had been issued for the former chairman of the state planning commission, Gerhard Schuerer. He was suspected of "criminal abuse of trust." ADN quoted the prosecutor's office as saying that Herrmann, in charge of media policy under disgraced Stalinist leader Erich Honecker, was being investigated "in connection with his responsibility for the former anti-constitutional media policy." The Communist Party exercised draconian control over all East German media until the Honecker leadership was ousted

(Continued on page 3)

Police battle Warsaw protesters

WARSAW (R) — Protesters screaming "away with the Communists" clashed with riot police Saturday outside a Warsaw congress hall in which rival factions of Poland's Communist Party were debating plans to dissolve the party. Police used batons to beat back 500 demonstrators who set fire to a red flag and tried to break into the building, hurling jars of red paint and screaming "away with the Communists." While police fought anti-Communist radicals outside the towering palace of culture, delegates inside said the congress, called to dissolve the Communist Party and create a new leftist party, was

on the verge of degenerating into squabbling progressive and conservative factions. Inside the pillared hall, a gift to Poland from Soviet dictator Josef Stalin, progressive Communists told reporters hundreds of their delegates would walk out if the congress failed to disband the old Polish United Workers Party (PUWP). The congress was scheduled to disband the PUWP Saturday and then hold the founding congress of a new party on Sunday and Monday. Progressives said a proposal to delay disbanding the shattered and discredited PUWP until a new party was formed was a

manoeuvre to force them to share the new party with conservatives and hardliners. Delegates said they wanted a credible social democratic party without the conservatives, and would boycott Sunday's congress session if the PUWP was not disbanded immediately. The progressives estimated their strength at about 500 of the 1,637 delegates before the congress, including most of the party's 165 parliamentary deputies and members of radical progressive groups. But they said a bloc of more than 70 military delegates joined the walkout threat Saturday.

Arab Bank to increase capital

AMMAN — The Board of Directors of the Arab Bank decided in a meeting held Thursday, Jan. 25, 1990, to recommend to the general assembly meeting scheduled for March 30, 1990 to amend article 6 of the articles of association and bylaws as follows: A) The company's capital shall be JD 44,000,000 divided into 4,400,000 shares each carrying a par value of JD 10,000; B) The bank's capital will be increased by JD 22,000,000 by allocating the sum from voluntary reserves; C) The bank will distribute the 2,200,000 new shares resulting from the capital increase among the shareholders as a bonus each in proportion to the number of shares listed in the bank's register on the date of holding the general assembly meeting in 1991; D) The new shares will carry dividends starting from 1991 profits. The above amendment is subject to the approval of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Prime Ministry and the Central Bank of Jordan after the endorsement of the general assembly.

PLO, Arabs lobby Soviets to stop Jewish influx

TUNIS (R) — Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are trying to persuade Moscow to stop the flow of Soviet Jews to Israel, senior Palestinian officials said.

A PLO official in Tunis said Saturday that the PLO's 15-member Executive Committee would meet in Tunis Monday to discuss emigration by Soviet Jews.

Arab countries were also holding contacts in Moscow and with Soviet ambassadors in their capitals, the officials said.

"Arab states are discussing the issue with Soviet ambassadors in each Arab capital," the PLO officials told Reuters.

He said Farouk Kaddoumi, the head of the PLO's political department, Thursday discussed the issue with the Soviet ambassador in Tunis.

"Arab diplomats in Moscow have reported that the Soviet Union showed some signs that it is willing to revise the issue," he added, but did not elaborate.

In Abu Dhabi, the Al Bayan newspaper Saturday quoted Salah Salah, a politburo member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), as saying the PLO was making efforts to stop the Jewish influx.

"The PLO has received information from some Soviet ambassadors in the region that

Moscow is officially revising this issue," he said.

Soviet reforms have eased restrictions on Jewish emigration and Israel expects 50,000 immigrants to arrive this year.

Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip staged a general strike last Thursday to protest at the flow of Soviet Jews to Israel and the occupied territories where a few hundred immigrants have joined Jewish settlers in recent months.

Palestinian dignitaries in the occupied territories Wednesday appealed to foreign consulates of several countries in Israel to intervene to stop the Jewish emigration, the Palestinian news agency Wafa said.

"Jews coming from the Soviet Union must not settle in the occupied territories including East Jerusalem," the letter said. Al Bayan quoted Salah as saying differences between the PLO and Moscow over the emigration should not harm what he called the alliance between them.

"We should work to block Israel's chances to exploit any differences between the PLO and the Soviets," he said.

Kuwaiti appeal

Kuwait Saturday called on the

permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to prevent the settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories.

"It is a dangerous issue," Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saud Al Osaimi told a press conference at the Foreign Ministry.

"This immigration (to Israel) is an annoying development and does not help the quest of stability and peace in the region," Osaimi said.

"We think that the settlement of the Jews in the occupied Arab territories at this juncture is a violation of U.N. resolutions and policies of the West European countries and the United States," he added.

Osaimi said Kuwait holds "the United Nations, particularly the Security Council, and its permanent members responsible" to stop settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories.

Osaimi did not directly criticise the Soviet Union.

"I think the situation is serious. I think the Arab League is studying now something about this," he said. "This type of issue must win the attention of the Arab League and be among the top priorities at its coming meetings."



Four hundred Soviet Jews to Israel from Budapest aboard a chartered jumbo jet of the El Al airline last week. Israel is expecting the biggest wave of

Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union in history over the next three to five years.

East Germany seeking formal ties with Israel

VIENNA (AP) — East German Premier Hans Modrow said Friday he was seeking diplomatic relations with Israel and is prepared to discuss reparations for Nazi victims.

East Germany has never had full diplomatic relations with Israel because it refused to accept any responsibility for the "holocaust."

"There will probably be negotiations and the problem of reparation will be aired," Modrow told reporters at a news conference after talks with Austrian leaders.

Most other East European nations followed the Soviet Union in breaking diplomatic ties with the Jewish state following the 1967 war.

But diplomatic ties with Israel now are being revived throughout Eastern Europe as more democratic governments take over from one-party communist cabinets. Hungary became the first to resume relations last September.

Unlike West Germany, East Germany has always refused to pay reparations for Nazi atrocities and confiscations, claiming it constituted the anti-Nazi resistance during the war and bore no responsibility for Hitler's actions.

Modrow spoke of resuming ties with Israel hours before paying a formal call on Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, who has been criticised by Jews worldwide for allegedly concealing his past as a

soldier in the German Army during World War II.

Modrow held talks Friday morning with Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, with the two agreeing to a three-month experiment in lifting visa requirements for citizens of each country.

The two men also signed a minor economic agreement on copyrights, saying they planned to seal more significant agreements on joint ventures and other economic cooperation soon.

East Germany Thursday announced it was liberalising laws governing foreign investments in a clear concession to Western businessmen and an attempt to revive the economy and stop a continuing drain of emigrants to West Germany.

Modrow told reporters he hoped that East and West Germany could swiftly agree on measures to stabilise currency exchange rates at one West German mark equaling three East German marks.

That is the current official rate, but black marketers continue to change at rates of around 10 East German marks to one West German.

He also envisaged broader cooperation and treaties with Bonn, bearing "hallmarks of confederation," but declined to be more specific.

"The future for both German states in the European house will be revealed only in the future," he said.

Cypriot Communist Party splits

NICOSIA (AP) — A split between hardliners and reformers in Cyprus' politically powerful Communist Party, Akel, widened with the reported resignation Saturday of seven members from the party's 40-member central committee.

The Cyprus News Agency reported that the resignations late Friday night included Andreas Ziartides and Paulos Dinglis, the president and secretary-general of the Akel-controlled Panycyprus Trade Union Confederation. Both are also members of parliament.

The seven followed the resignation from the committee earlier Saturday of its secretary, veteran Communist Andreas Fanis, and last week of committee member Michael Papapetrou.

The agency said the resignations were in protest at undemocratic methods and resistance to reforms by party hardliners, led by party General Secretary Dimitris Christofias. The reform demands have been inspired by the policies of Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev and the upheaval in East Europe.

"The latest resignations came after the hardline majority voted Friday night to warn reformers against their criticism of party policies and to relieve Ziartides and Dinglis of their official duties."

S. Arabia kicks off novel anti-drug drive

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia's anti-drug caravan has given an official send-off Saturday by the Riyadh vice governor, Prince Sattam, and diplomats including U.S. ambassador Charles Freeman.

The 600-metre-long caravan is made up of five trucks, 25 Sedans, an armoured vehicle, a horse-drawn cart carrying a marching band, eight camels and patrol police cars. It began a five-day tour in the capital as helicopters hovered above.

Crowds of Saudi men cheered in the parking lot of the Malaz Sports Stadium, the starting point for the caravan.

The lot was filled with white tents containing visual displays, books, stickers, and pamphlets on drug abuse. The United States Information Service helped provide anti-drug leaflets for the helicopters to shower.

Helium-filled balloons, brightly coloured flags and streamers brightened the atmosphere. The caravan, the kingdom's most ambitious anti-drug information campaign to date, will visit 11 other cities around the kingdom before continuing to spread its message to neighbouring Gulf countries and other Arab states in the region.

Leaflets will be distributed to the public and theatrical events, with drug abuse as the main theme, will be performed by Saudi actors.

While Saudi Arabia's drug problem is minor in comparison to most Western countries, the kingdom has responded swiftly to curtail the flow of narcotics across its borders.

Declaring drug smuggling and trafficking un-Islamic, the Saudi monarch, King Fahd, issued a royal decree mandating the death penalty for drug smugglers three years ago.

Since then, 21 people have been publicly beheaded for drug offenses and, according to the National Commission for Combating Drugs, drug abuse and trafficking have decreased by 50 per cent in the kingdom.

"The decision to execute drug smugglers has had a major impact," said Ibrahim Al Maiman, acting director of the national commission. In interviews with local press, Maiman has expressed hope that the caravan, organised by his office, will help to educate Saudi citizens, especially the younger ones, about the negative effect of drugs.

"The caravan is a new style initiated for the first time to enlighten youth against the psychological, physical, social, and economic harms of drugs," said Maiman.

"Parades, festivals, shows, competitions and gifts will ensure bigger attendance to the caravan and will hence enable us to distribute more pamphlets and books against drugs," said Maiman.

Naccache ends hunger-strike in jail

PARIS (Agencies) — Anis Naccache, serving life in prison for the attempted assassination of an Iranian exile leader, decided Friday to call off his 19-week hunger strike, the Justice Ministry said.

The ministry said Naccache informed officials at Frénes prison of his decision to end his fast without giving any explanation.

Naccache, who was born in 1951 in Beirut, contends that France promised to free him in the deal that won the release in May 1988 of all French hostages then held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

On Sept. 8 he began refusing food in a bid to force the government to let him go. He continued to drink liquids, and doctors in the prison hospital fed him intravenously on occasion, which they said could keep him alive indefinitely despite the hunger strike.

Naccache and four other men were sentenced to life in prison for a July 1980 attack on Shapour Bakhtiar, Iran's last prime minister before the 1979 revolution. Bakhtiar escaped injury by a policeman and a bystander were killed.

Both defence lawyers and the prosecution said Naccache was the leader of a team ordered by top Iranian leaders to kill Bakhtiar.

Iran's current leaders, while not confirming they ordered the assassination, have supported Naccache's claim that France promised to free him during the 1988 hostage negotiations.

President Francois Mitterrand said there was no evidence for the claim. Mitterrand said earlier this month he might eventually pardon Naccache, but not under pressure from a hunger strike.

Two weeks ago, Naccache's lawyer said he had lost 27 kilograms and weighed just 48 kilograms.

There were fears that if he died, French targets would again be hit by terrorist bombs.

Naccache was one of three prisoners whose freedom was demanded by a group calling itself the Committee for Solidarity with Arab and Middle East Political Prisoners, which claimed responsibility for bombings in 1985 and 1986 that killed 13 people and injured more than 250 in Paris.

Next Monday, the criminal trial is scheduled to open of 10 people charged in those bombings.

The Justice Ministry announcement was made shortly after Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Vaezi ended two days of talks with French officials on final repayment of a \$1 billion loan advanced by the late Shah in 1974.

France has already repaid \$630 million of the disputed money. It has withheld the final payment because it is claiming compensation from Iran for French firms which lost business after the Iranian revolution.

It was not known if Vaezi discussed Naccache in Paris. Spanish authorities deported a Lebanese Friday and he was taken away by Syrian security men, apparently for questioning, on arrival in Beirut.

Ali Mustafa Berri said he was expelled because he had no residence permit after living in Spain for the past three years. Two Spanish policemen accompanied Berri on the Middle East Airlines plane to Beirut from Madrid.

Spanish police arrested eight Arabs last November after finding a large cache of explosives in a cargo of jam.

Iranian plea

A plea from Iranian leaders persuaded Naccache to end the hunger strike, his lawyer said Saturday.

Jacques Verges told Reuters Naccache's mother visited him on Friday and passed on a message from Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani asking him to end the fast.

Verges also said French authorities had agreed to Naccache's demand that he should be jailed alongside the four other members of a command involved in the failed attempt to assassinate Bakhtiar.

A Justice Ministry spokesman refused to comment on Verges's statement that authorities had agreed to Naccache's demand.

Moroccans denounce comic-strip Koran

RABAT (R) — Muslim theologians in Morocco said Saturday the publication of a comic-strip version of the Koran was sacrilegious.

The Moroccan League of Ulama appealed to booksellers to boycott the book and called on the authorities to "take appropriate measures to spare the country this heresy."

In a statement published by the pro-government daily Le Matin, the theologians said the comic-strip Koran was "a sacrilegious and absurd act, a deformation of the holy book's verses, and an attack on the inviolability of the Prophet Muhammad."

Tunisia's mufti, Sheikh Mohammad Mokhtar Al Salami, urged parents last week to keep the book, "Tell Me a Story From the Koran," away from their children.

Beirut papers publish appeals to kidnappers

BEIRUT (AP) — Two Beirut newspapers Saturday published an appeal for the release of three American educators kidnapped by Iranian-backed extremists three years ago.

"We plead with those in a position to help to ensure the release of our professors," said a statement released by Beirut University College (BUC), where the three taught.

"Those teachers taught with sincerity and diligence for many years and shared difficulties and dangers with their colleagues," the communique added.

The Arabic-language statement was carried by Al Nahar and Al Safir dailies.

Alann Steen, Robert Polhill and Jesse Turner were kidnapped Jan. 24, 1987, from the campus of the American-affiliated BUC in the city's western sector by gunmen disguised as policemen.

Islamic Jihad (holy war) for the

Liberation of Palestine, an underground pro-Iranian group, claimed responsibility for their abduction.

A fourth BUC educator kidnapped with the Americans, Mithileshwar Singh, an Indian national and resident alien of the United States, was released Oct. 1988, after 20 months in captivity.

Steen, 50, of Arcata, California, taught journalism at BUC.

Polhill, 55, formerly of New York, was assistant professor of business and lecturer in accounting at the college.

Turner, 42, of Boise, Idaho, was a visiting professor of mathematics and computer science.

Fifteen other westerners are held hostage in Lebanon. They include five other Americans, four Britons, two West Germans, two Swiss, an Irishman and an Italian.

Outgunned and trapped, Aoun becomes a cult figure

By Donna Abu Nasr
The Associated Press

BAABDA, Lebanon — Increasingly isolated and cornered in a Christian enclave, rebel General Michel Aoun has become a cult figure for young supporters of his campaign to drive the powerful Syrian army out of Lebanon.

Every day, hundreds of his loyalists pay homage to him at the shell-shattered presidential palace atop a hill in suburban Baabda, which he has turned into the "home of the people."

Children smash open their clay piggy banks at Aoun's feet while businessmen spill wads of banknotes from plastic bags to aid his seemingly hopeless cause.

Much of this is pure theatre, stage-managed by Aoun's aides. On some days, when there are not enough supporters for his television cameras to portray as a big crowd, aides with bullhorns marshal the faithful to huddle together in the middle of the courtyard so the cameras can give the impression there is.

To his foes, the Syrians and their allies, Aoun is everything

from a misguided fool to a dangerous megalomaniac whose lust for power not only blocks efforts to end Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war but could unleash more bloodshed and destroy what's left of the country.

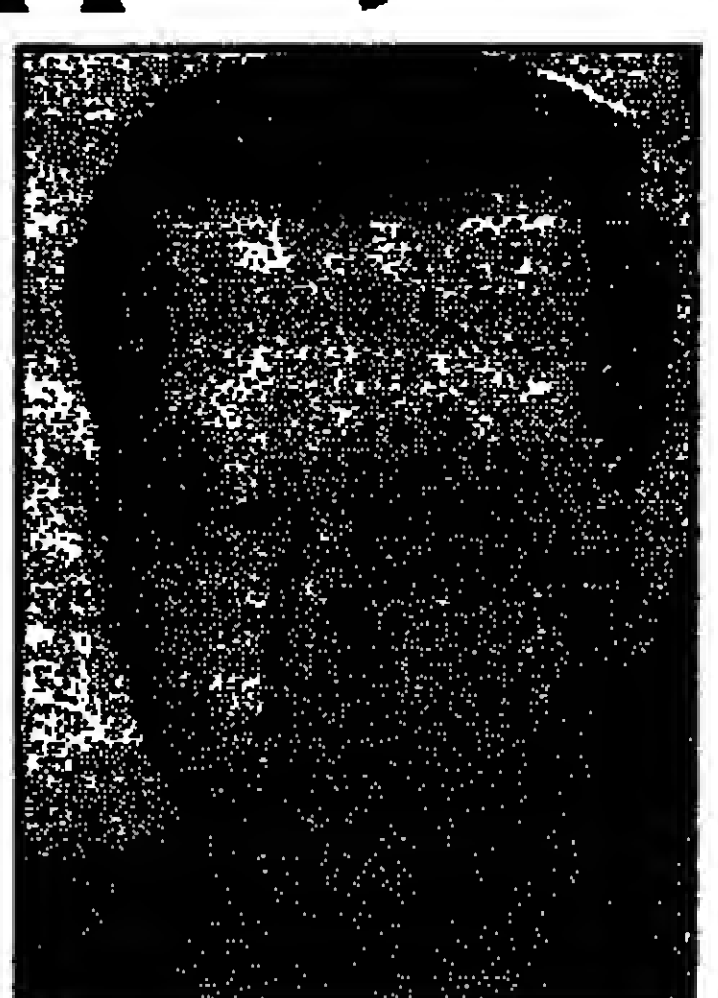
To Druze leader Walid Junblatt, Aoun is "a clown, a clever clown."

Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss, a Sunni Muslim, snorted recently that the chubby general "has become nothing but a television show."

But for young people in the enclave, ringed on three sides by hostile forces and by the Mediterranean on the other, Aoun is clearly their champion — and no pushover.

An estimated half of the one million Christians living inside the enclave support the fiery general. Others, such as the right-wing Falangists and the Lebanese Forces militia, oppose him but have not dared to move against him.

Most nights at the Ouragan night club in east Beirut, young women flash V-for victory signs with their fingers as they dance and shout "Aoun, Aoun."



Michel Aoun

In other discos, youngsters sing "general, general," a paean of praise for Aoun set to the tune of the little Richard rock 'n' roll classic, "Tutti Frutti."

The Arabic-language song ridicules rival leaders who endorsed an Arab League-brokered peace plan in Saudi Arabia last October, under which President Elias Hrawi was elected Nov. 24.

That ended Aoun's term as interim prime minister, which he had held since September, 1988, when President Amin Gemayel's term expired and parliament failed to elect a new leader.

But Aoun, whose 20,000 troops control the enclave, rejects the accord because it does not guarantee the withdrawal of the 40,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon.

All 45 foreign ambassadors accredited in Lebanon have shunned Aoun since Hrawi's election. But the general vows to continue the "war of liberation" he launched last March to drive out the Syrians, even though his forces are heavily outgunned and outnumbered.

At least 929 people were killed and 2,744 wounded before the guns were silenced by an Arab League cease-fire Sept. 22.

Hrawi, who has sacked Aoun as army commander and interim prime minister, wants the palace so he can rule from the symbol of state authority. Aoun refuses to recognise him or vacate the ruined palace.

Some of Aoun's more fervent supporters have elevated him to virtual sainthood.

"Jesus Christ is our saviour in heaven, and Michel Aoun is our Jesus and our saviour on earth," a woman commented in a broadcast by Aoun's Radio Lebanon.

In the palace, a manger with a figurine depicting the Virgin Mary holding Jesus Christ is placed on a large day map of Lebanon; a gift from an Aoun supporter.

The manger is fixed on the spot where Baabda would be on the map.

Some Maronites even hold Christmas and other church rituals in the palace courtyard, dominated by strings of lights that spell out "God bless our home."

Once a day the general emerges from his bunker, two floors under the palace, to deliver a political sermon to his followers.

His speeches, delivered from behind an armoured shield draped with the Lebanese flag, are often interrupted by shouts of "Syria get out" and "with our blood and souls we sacrifice ourselves to you, oh General."

When the winter rains soak them, supporters amend the

chant to: "With our flu we sacrifice ourselves to you."

Aoun's officers exhort the crowds to yell "louder, louder" — their shouts almost drowned by taped cheers blaring from loudspeakers while the TV cameras roll.

When it looked like the Syrians were going to attack Baabda last October, thousands of Aoun's young loyalists formed a "human shield" around the palace.

About 500 are still camped out in dozens of coloured tents nestling among the trees around the palace.

Since winter set in, the tents are mostly empty during the day. But they're crowded at weekends.

"We stay up till dawn, dancing," said John, who did not want his full name used because he often slips into west Beirut. "The best parties we have are the ones we hold here."

"Why shouldn't we party? We've won the battle against the Syrians," he added ingenuously, even though the Syrian-backed Hrawi has said he may yet mount a military assault to dislodge Aoun from the palace.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:10 Football
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Local programme
18:20 Cultural programme
19:00 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:40 Varieties programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:50 Tel Pere Tel Film
18:15 L'ecole de faus
19:00 News in French
19:15 Ajjour'hui en France
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties programme
20:00 News in Arabic
21:30 Who's the Boss?
21:40 Doc. "Sapceflight"
22:00 News in English
22:30 Game Set and Match

PRAYER TIMES

05:00 Fair
06:28 (Sunrise) Dala

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedeh, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrazas Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 685326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 815817 and 649592

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

The country will be affected by a depression centred north of Egypt making it cold and rainy. Winds will be southeasterly becoming southwesterly moderate to fresh. In Agaba, it will be partly cloudy with a chance for scattered showers and winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.

Amman 1 / 8

Agaba 9 / 18

Dejra 2 / 7

Jordan Valley 8 / 14

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 9, Agaba 18. Humidity readings: Amman 70 per cent, Agaba 39 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

ADMAN: Dr. Tayseer Al-Sa'idi 777636
Dr. Tayseer Khader 606857
Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim 896294
Dr. Hisham Kan'an 790286
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Azzam pharmacy 627055
Nairokh pharmacy 626672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsan pharmacy 637660

IRBID:

Dr. Ali Al-Samman (—)
Al Shamsan pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Khalil Abu Hussein (—)
Khalil pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Rescue 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121



King receives Tunisian message

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Saturday Tunisian Minister of Information Al Habib Bul Iris who delivered to him a message from Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali dealing with the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas and their impact on the Arab region in general and the Palestine problem in particular.

The meeting was attended by Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin and the Tunisian ambassador to Jordan.

Later, the Tunisian minister told Jordan Television that he heard the King's views with regard to Arab issues and challenges confronting the Arab World. We discussed bilateral relations and ways of developing bilateral cooperation in a manner that would serve the peoples of Tunisia and Jordan, the minister added.

He said he would be carrying the King's views to the Tunisian president.

Hotel helps charity work

AMMAN (J.T.) — In'am Mufit, director-general of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, receiving the proceeds of the charitable fashion show organised by the management of Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental that took place Dec. 6, 1989 on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday and under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor. The cheque was presented by Majeed Khalil, general manager of Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental (see photo).



RSS supervises airport reservoir repair

AMMAN — Experts of the Royal Scientific Society's (RSS) Building Research Centre have provided consultation and supervision services related to repair and supervision of the firewater reservoir at Queen Alia international airport. The reservoir, which holds 8,200 cubic metres of water, suffered from a severe leakage problem where about 100 cubic metres of water were lost daily. Such a loss would jeopardise the airport's capabilities to promptly deal with fire accidents.

The RSS conducted an extensive study of the problem upon request from the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications and presented a solution to the leakage problem. Furthermore, the RSS was assigned the duty to supervise the execution of the repair work.

This one-year project consisted of full scale lining of the reservoir using polyethylene sheets of 1.5 mm. thickness in addition to the repair and maintenance of different structural elements.

Upon the completion of the project, the reservoir was found to be waterproof and the leakage problem was successfully eliminated — RSS News.



Azerbaijan front offers talks

(Continued from page 1)

the southern Soviet republic, had agreed to send representatives to the Latvian capital of Riga Jan. 31.

Armenian activists had announced Thursday that the Armenian All-National Movement would send a delegation to Riga.

However, Romaldus Razhukas, a director of the Latvian People's Front, said in a telephone interview from Riga that the Azerbaijanis had set a condition: They would only agree to hold direct talks with the Armenians if the Republic of Armenia renounced its claim to a disputed part of Azerbaijan's territory.

The Armenians have demanded that the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, a predominantly Armenian enclave, be united with Armenia.

The Azerbaijanis want to limit the talks to the question of refugees, humanitarian issues and securing the withdrawal of Soviet troops sent to quell the nationalist uprising and ethnic bloodshed in the two Caucasus mountain republics.

Activists in the Baltic republics have something of a stake in peacefully resolving the ethnic strife in Azerbaijan. They fear that the continued use of force by Moscow could set the stage for

similar intervention in their own republics, which have nettled the Kremlin with calls for greater autonomy.

The TASS news agency said Saturday that 125 people, including 27 soldiers, had died in clashes between soldiers and militants since the troops pushed into the city Jan. 20, crushing barricades built by rebels to keep them out.

Conflicting signals appeared to be emerging from the Soviet leadership on whether the intention was to settle the crisis by force or talks.

Yazov's statements as reported by the government daily Izvestia Friday were uncompromising. He accused the front of trying to seize power in Azerbaijan and said the main reason the Soviet army went there was to smash it.

A top front leader, Ekhtibar Mamedov, who flew to Moscow and told a news conference Thursday there should be talks with authorities was arrested the next day.

But radical deputies in the Soviet parliament said Friday they thought they had convinced first Vice President Anatoly Lukyanov of the need to recognise the front's massive support in Azerbaijan and talk its leaders.

TASS said 100 people had been detained in Baku under a military

decree which allows detention for up to 30 days of those who "violate public order or spread false rumours" or provoke strikes and rallies.

The Soviet trade union newspaper Trud said members of the front were going underground to avoid arrest. In Baku, front member Nadzhaf Nadzhafov said many people were staying away from their homes because they feared being picked up by police.

Baku's military commander Vladimir Dubinsky told TASS troops had foiled a front attempt to take over a number of buildings. He said they had found more than 1,000 military uniforms and a considerable quantity of ammunition at front headquarters.

Dubinsky said those detained included Rakhim Gadzhiev, a leader of the Council of National Defence, which is affiliated with the Popular Front.

Mahomet Gatani, leader of a self-styled organisation called National Liberation, was arrested for inciting ethnic riots, Dubinsky said.

Trud, in its report from Baku, described a city under military occupation. Helicopters circled overhead, troops patrolled the streets in flakjackets and military vehicles guarded major intersections.

Private sector suggests taking over meat supply

AMMAN (J.T.) — Merchants have proposed to the government that they take over the task of providing the local markets with sufficient quantities of fresh meat in the wake of shortages in the market and a halt of shipments from Eastern Europe.

Merchants representative Mohammad Asfour suggested in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the private sector be allowed to import large numbers of live sheep together with fodder so that the animals can be slaughtered here and sold later at far lower cost than imported fresh meat and local meat.

Asfour, chairman of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce said that normally sheep exporters dispatch fodder to feed the animals for at least 30 days and there were numerous companies abroad which were willing to supply the live sheep.

Importing consignments of live sheep sufficient for six months will cost less than importing fresh meat in smaller quantities from any sources, Asfour said.

The government should facilitate such procedure and reduce customs duty on the sheep estimated at JD 10 per head, Asfour said. In return, he said, the government can end the subsidies on animal feed to stock breeders.

Jordan used to import fresh meat from Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey in aircraft loads costing a great deal of money, but still the meat was sold at lower cost than the locally produced meat.

In view of the shortage of fresh meat, the Ministry of Supply recently imported increased quantities of frozen meat mainly from New Zealand and opened more centres in Amman and other towns to sell meat.

Jordan has almost three million heads of sheep, according to official sources but they are not sufficient to cover country's needs.

The Ministry of Supply recently announced that it was importing more quantities of frozen fish to partly make up for the shortage of meat.

W. Bank students score well in Jordan Tawjihi

AMMAN (Petra) — A very high percentage of students in the occupied West Bank who sat for the tawjihi examination has passed and the results will be released Sunday, the director of the Examination Department at the Ministry of Education, Dr. Mohammad Sayel Obeidat, said Saturday.

The West Bank examination committee director has been provided with application forms for Jordanian universities to facilitate the admission of West Bank students through the Ministry of Education, Obeidat said. Three per cent of the seats are reserved for West Bank students, he added.

The tawjihi results in the Kingdom will be released after Feb. 5, he said.

The Ministry of Higher Education has urged West Bank students who passed the tawjihi examination in 1989 and wish to attend community colleges in Jordan to check with the colleges they like to attend so that applications can be submitted from Sunday and no later than Feb. 1. Students will be accepted in accordance with their averages and reserved seats, and the names of accepted students will appear in the local papers no later than Feb. 5, a ministry spokesman said.

Jordan stepped in to help West Bank tawjihi students when it became clear that examinations could not be held in the occupied territories because of the 26-month-old uprising there and the measures imposed by the occupied authorities.

'Protection from drugs' seminar begins today

IRBID (J.T.) — Yamouk University, in cooperation with the Amman-based regional office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), Monday hosts a symposium entitled "Protection from Drugs."

UNESCO Representative Mohammad Khawaldeh said in a statement that 40 participants from various Arab countries would take part in the symposium, which will discuss drugs and drug addiction in general and causes that lead to addiction and the effects of drugs on human health.

Khawaldeh said that Yamouk University was chosen as a venue for the symposium because it had the potential for designing and implementing a project aimed to introduce the subject of "protection against drugs" into university courses — on a trial basis before applying these courses in other Arab countries.

This subject, he said, is designed as a part of the general efforts to rid society of the danger of drugs addiction and to involve the educational sector in spreading awareness among the public against drugs and their serious consequences.

The symposium, which will last until the end of the new university semester ending in May, will provide the participants with sufficient basic information and knowledge on drugs and their types and nature and the way they are used by addicts as well as their adverse effects on society as a whole, Khawaldeh added.

He said ways to counter addiction and to spread awareness in society, and various public and private sectors could also be reviewed.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

ACO MEETING IN MOROCCO: The Greater Amman Municipality is participating in the ninth meeting of the Arab Cities Organisation (ACO) due to open at Marrakesh, Morocco, Monday. The ACO's permanent office is holding the four-day meeting to discuss a general report by its secretariat and to endorse a general budget for the past four years as well as for the next three years. Greater Amman Mayor Ali Subeimat, who left for Marrakesh Saturday at the head of a delegation to take part in the meeting, said the delegates would discuss the ACO's activities and programmes in the next three years and elect a new secretary general. Among the topics on the agenda, Subeimat said, is the function of an ACO fund which provides loans to Arab cities.

SPORTS MEETING IN TUNIS: Jordan will participate in the meetings of the Arab Sports Federation technical committee due to begin in Tunis Monday. The three-day meetings will touch on a number of subjects related to Arab sporting activities and the federation's future plans. Iraq, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the federation's general secretariat will participate in the meetings (Petra).

ARAB-SOVIET TIES: Palestine's ambassador to the Soviet Union Saturday delivered a lecture at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in which he dealt with recent developments in the Socialist bloc and the Soviet Union, and their influence on Arab issues. Nabil Amr said that these developments significantly affected the Arab causes, particularly the Palestinian problem and said that it is hard to predict the consequences of these developments at this time. He said the immigration of Soviet Jews should be confronted at the Arab and Islamic levels since colonialism threatens not only Palestine, but also other Arab countries (Petra).

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition entitled "They chose 30 poets" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by Mohammad Al Jalous at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILMS

- ★ A Soviet film entitled "Torpedo vessel" at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 5:30 p.m.
- ★ A feature film entitled "La Bamba" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.



Schoolchildren with Syrian peace walker, Ahmad Al Jubeli

A messenger of peace

By Salwa Al Taber

AMMAN — It was 20 Celsius and hailing, but nothing could deter the children from their march. They gathered at the Artists Association on that grey Friday morning to bid Syrian traveller Ahmad Al Jubeli farewell. They agreed to walk him out of Amman, by taking him to the airport road on his way to Saudi Arabia. In the twelve days he spent in Jordan, Jubeli became the children's friend.

Jubeli is undertaking a 90,000 km walk around the world, as a messenger of peace. He started his trip in the Syrian city of Kunaitira Sept. 2, 1987 and plans to end it at Hiroshima in 1993. He has divided it into five phases. The first phase is over and in it he walked 16,000 km around Eastern and Western Europe, Scandinavia and the USSR.

The second phase just started with Jordan as the first stop and will take the traveller through the Arab countries and part of Africa. The third phase includes North and South America. The fourth is dedicated to Southern Africa and the fifth will take him to East and South Asia ending in Hiroshima.

Why Kunaitira and Hiroshima? Obviously because both cities suffered so much from wars. A therapist from Aleppo, Jubeli, was exposed to a great number of war victims. Seeing so many children suffer spurred him to take his walk under the slogan: everything for childhood.

This unusual traveller carries 40 kg on his back and walks an average of 40 km a day. In his bag are his personal tent, a radio, a compass, binoculars, a small pharmacy and letters to all the rulers of the world. He

also flies six flags: Syria's, Japan's, the flag of the host country, the U.N.'s, the flag of the World Peace Council and one with the emblem of the journey: Save the children of the world.

So far, many international organisations — UNICEF, the International Red Cross, etc., feminist agencies, student unions as well as many world leaders have extended their appreciation and support. In Jordan Jubeli met His Majesty King Hussein, who blessed his efforts. He visited schools, universities, hospitals, and Parliament. People everywhere were responsive and hospitable.

An idealist on an impossible mission, Ahmad Jubeli? A lone voice in the wilderness? May be. But one that reaches deep and haunts the heart and the memory.

RJ wins cookery award

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national air carrier, has won the bronze award in a competition in catering organised in London known as the British Open Cookery championship "Le Salon Culinaire". A total of 28 airlines and catering companies took part in the competition, which opened Jan. 21, 1990 and lasted for a whole week. Judges came from various parts of the world to taste the food, along with thousands of visitors.

Yusef Qadri, deputy director general for RJ catering, represented Jordan at the competition.

RJ provides flight meals to a total of 17 airlines in addition to aircraft operated by itself. According to RJ officials the sample meals presented at the weeklong competition included Oriental dishes.



Meeting prepares for Jordanian-Syrian talks

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian-Syrian preparatory committee began meetings in Amman Saturday to prepare for the meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee scheduled to open in Amman Monday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mudar Badran and his Syrian counterpart Mahmoud Zou'bi.

During the first session, discussions dealt with the recommendations of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Committee in the field of energy, mining, irrigation, and agriculture as well as increasing mutual scopes of cooperation.

"The committee decided to submit its recommendations on the issues discussed to the meetings of the higher committee Monday for endorsement," the head of the Jordanian side to the meetings, Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf said.

A Jordanian economic delegation, led by Minister of Industry and Trade Dr. Ziyad Fariz, held extensive talks last week in Damascus with senior Syrian officials yielding identical views on means to consolidate ties of cooperation between the two countries in all spheres.

MUSEUM IN AQABA: Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Karim Kabariti Friday inspected the residence of late Sharif Hussein Ben Ali in Aqaba and was briefed on arrangements being undertaken to use the residence as a museum. He also inspected work under way at the Greater Arab Revolt Yard, abutting the residence, which will be used as a touristic facility (Petra).

DISTINGUISHED JOB OPPORTUNITY

A leading officer in Amman is seeking to employ a female translator with the following qualifications:

1. University degree.
2. Excellent command of both Arabic and English.
3. Typing, in both Arabic and English, using an IBM personal computer. Knowledge of Wordstar Word Processing is a plus.
4. Minimum of 3 years experience.

Working hours are from 9:30-5:00. Salary and other fringe benefits, according to qualifications. Kindly send resume with a recent photo to:

P.O. Box 7111

Amman, Jordan

Applications must be received no later than Feb. 15, 1990.

Handwritten signature or mark.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

الجزيرة الأردنية السياسية اليومية المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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Minding rules of democracy

THEY met in a marathon parliamentary session yesterday to discuss the government draft budget. Many spoke at length. The subject was not always the budget, however. Their speeches included some economics and finances, as indeed they should. But the right honouables took the liberty to talk about everything under the sun as well.

It is all right if some members of Parliament want to or did in fact talk about problems faced by their constituents, and hospitals and hotels needed by their constituencies, during a budget debate. They can discuss East-West relations and the situation in Guatemala if they so wish. But it is not a healthy sign for our budding democracy when members of the House start using the forum to launch personal attacks and level unsubstantiated accusations against one another and certain individuals and institutions in our country.

We are not defending any particular person or group of people who might have misused their power or abused the law in the past. In the same vein, we are not trying to protect any particular institution which might have failed to function properly. But there are basic rules of democracy which should not be ignored or broken by our deputies. We are talking here about some words said yesterday that were so illogical and wrong that they had to be censored.

Let deputies say what they want and all they want. Our parliamentary democracy, new and budding as it is, can contain them. But let it also be known that the right of speech which all Jordanians are enjoying today should not be abused by libellous accusations and meaningless rhetoric, from whatever source these come from.

It may be unfair to leave all discussion of the important issues that were raised during yesterday's session, and to dwell on only one aspect of the debate. But it is extremely important, we think, to keep reminding ourselves of the basic rules of democracy. Those rules entail objective thinking and scientific analysis. They entail study and research — and not just empty words and hollow actions.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Saturday commented on Prime Minister Mudar Badran's statement published in the press about the Palestine issue and his assertion that all Palestinians who hold Jordanian nationality have the same rights like all other Jordanians. The paper said however, no one can take away the Palestinian identity from the soul of any Palestinian citizen living in Jordan or in any other country. Al Ra'i said that claims by Israel that Jordan should serve as the Palestinian homeland is mad thinking. It referred to the prime minister's reference to Jewish immigration in Palestine and said how can this take place at the expense of the oppressed people who are now asked to have a homeland in Jordan. The paper said Jordan stands by Syria and, together they form a united front in the face of Israel. The paper echoed Badran's assertion that Jordan was keen on protecting Syria's security and vice versa. The paper said Jordan welcomes a visit by the Syrian prime minister at the head of a delegation on Monday and believes that the visit and the talks of the Joint Jordanian Syrian Higher Committee will further contribute towards bolstering bilateral cooperation in all fields.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily says that the Ministry of Supply does not have the intention of harming the interests of supply merchants and for this reason both parties ought to reach a compromise agreement over the question of the food supplies. Salah Abdul Samad says that the minister of supply has already denied any intention on the part of the ministry to impose any set of prices that would cause imbalance in the market, and at the same time cannot accept all the merchants demands for increasing prices. The writer says that if the Supply Merchants Association does not declare its justification for demanding a higher price, then it cannot continue putting pressure on the ministry which now says that all food supplies have already been priced and that the merchants are demanding an increase to make up for the additional cost due to the devaluation of the dinar. Pressure is one of the worst and unproductive way of dealing with any issue and, therefore, should not be adopted here by any party if it wants to safeguard national interest, Abdul Samad adds. He says that this question ought to be settled amicably and with responsibility.

Al Dustour Arabic daily on Saturday discussed the question of Soviet Jewish immigration which, it said, is being carried out under the pretext of protecting human rights. The usurpation of Arab land in Palestine and the denial of the human rights of the Palestinian people so as to settle one million Jews are all being carried out in the name of human rights, said the paper. The convergence of Jews on Palestine from Ethiopia and the Soviet Union will no doubt call for the creation of more settlements to absorb them and will consequently lead to the uprooting of more Palestinian Arabs from their homeland, the paper added. The natural result of such action is war, and a cancellation of peace efforts on the part of the Zionist rulers. The paper said that the Arabs are now left with no Soviet friends who used to provide weapons and diplomatic support; and they should make it clear to Moscow that it must realise that its surrender to U.S.-Israel demands is considered a violation of Arab human rights.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Options to tackle unemployment

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

THE SIZE of the Jordan's labour force is approximately 875,000, while job opportunities available in the country are around 650,000. This makes structural unemployment stand at 225,000, or 26 per cent of the work force.

However, not all Jordanians are working in Jordan. Jordanian expatriates are estimated at 275,000, mostly in Arab Gulf states. On the other hand not all those working in Jordan are Jordanians. Guest workers are estimated at 150,000. To complete the chart of the Jordanian labour market we have to point out that Jordanians working in Jordan are in the order of 500,000 and unemployed Jordanians are 100,000.

Some countries import labour, others export labour. There must be countries that import labour and export labour at the same time, but there is definitely no country, other than Jordan, that exports over a third of its own labour force, and imports over a quarter of those working within its boundaries at the same time.

The above estimates suggest that unemployment is around 11.5 per cent of the total number of Jordanians who are able and willing to work, or 15.5 per cent of those working in Jordan including non-Jordanians.

Five years ago, official figures suggested that unemployment stood at 8 per cent. Since then officials continued to quote the same figure. If this were true in 1985/1986, when the economic development plan was under preparation, it would not be true

now because the Jordanian labour force is growing at 5 to 6 per cent a year while the economy is stagnating and unable to create new jobs. The Gulf markets ceased to absorb more Jordanians except to the extent that offsets the returning expatriates. Only recently the minister of finance quoted 10 per cent for unemployment in his budget speech. Last week the prime minister estimated unemployment at 15 per cent.

Jordanian decision-makers need to know their options to be able to tackle unemployment after having it has reached this high level with all its social, economic and political consequences. There is an increasing awareness of the importance of this problem.

There are two ways of dealing with unemployment. One is artificial, visible and relatively easy: ask the government to employ part of the unemployed, and impose the remainder on the shareholding companies and public corporations. This solution creates underemployment, raises the cost, and reduces the efficiency. In the current circumstances, the government, corporations and companies cannot afford to pay more wages for unproductive work.

The second way is the real solution that creates more productive jobs through the addition to the overall productive capacity. This can come about by new investments in industry,

agriculture and services.

The government is not in a position to invest. Funds simply are not available, and external credit sources had dried out. Investment has to come from the private sector, domestic, Arab and foreign.

The private sector is now hesitant to invest, not due to lack of funds but due to the hurdles and risks caused by the government, such as arbitrary pricing and uncertainty concerning future policies.

Real investments are long term. Investors have to wait several years before they recover their capital. Therefore they cannot afford to get involved unless the future is predictable. They need stable laws and regulations. Nothing hurts the investment climate more than expecting surprises.

Beside improving the investment climate, the government needs to know the facts: numbers of the unemployed, their areas, ages, qualifications, experience, and duration of unemployment. Employment offices, training and retraining, and labour agreements with other countries have a role in alleviating unemployment.

But, all these steps are meaningless as long as the domestic labour market continues to be out of control, and fully open to whoever is interested from outside Jordan, irrespective of the real need.

UNHCR faces uphill struggle to break deadlock

By Clare Nullis
The Associated Press

GENEVA — The first major challenge of new U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees has been finding a solution to the deadlock between the United States and Britain over the emotional issue of sending back tens of thousands of boat people to Vietnam against their will.

Throrvald Stoltenberg, a former Norwegian minister, has been given the task of negotiating directly with Washington and London in an attempt to salvage agreement on a starting date for the mandatory repatriation of Vietnamese who do not qualify for refugee status.

A 30-nation meeting broke up in disarray late Jan. 24 after U.S. officials insisted no one should be forcibly returned to Vietnam before Jan. 1, 1991, thereby blocking consensus on a proposed starting date of next July 1.

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees had proposed the six-month suspen-

sion of mandatory repatriations as a half-way compromise between U.S. demands and Britain's arguments that deportations should begin immediately to deter another mass influx of boat people into chronically overcrowded Hong Kong.

"There is no objective justification for a delay in mandatory repatriation. But in the interests of consensus we were prepared to agree on a (six-month) moratorium," said Robin McLaren, the head of the British delegation.

Although the two-day meeting ended without agreement because of the difficulties on timing, it marked the first time that a measure of international consensus had been reached that Vietnamese deemed to have fled economic want rather than political persecution should be returned to their homeland even against their will.

"We do have agreement on mandatory repatriation. What we don't have is a date," McLaren told journalists.

U.S. officials, relaxing the out-

right opposition to forced repatriations, told the meeting they would not block international consensus to the forcible return of economic migrants, according to sources present at closed session.

For the first time at an international gathering Vietnam also agreed to take back thousands of its former countrymen and women returned against their will as part of a U.N.-supported programme.

However, Hanoi said there should be no forced returns before Oct. 1 to allow time for preparations to absorb the returnees into its stricken economy, where unemployment has been boosted by the thousands of soldiers returning from Cambodia.

For its part the UNHCR, a long-time opponent of forcible repatriations, said it would help monitor those deported to Vietnam provided agreement was reached in Geneva.

But the prospects of Stoltenberg negotiating an accord between the United States and Britain do not look promising. Britain's McLaren was clearly

annoyed at the U.S. refusal to compromise despite support for the six-month moratorium from 28 of the 30 countries represented at the meeting. He said it was up to the administration of U.S. President George Bush to rethink its policy on the timing of repatriation.

He added that he expected Stoltenberg to "take soundings" of U.S. views by the end of next week.

However, any efforts by Stoltenberg to persuade the United States to move on the timetable issue may be complicated by the apparent contraction in U.S. policy.

Although U.S. negotiators at the Geneva meeting softened their outright opposition to mandatory repatriation, Washington's official stance remains resolutely opposed to forcible returns.

"I want to emphasise that the United States position on involuntary repatriation has not changed," State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler

said in Washington. "The United States remains opposed, in principle and in practice, to involuntary repatriation," she said.

McLaren warned that the absence of an international agreement would not deter Britain from forcibly sending back boat people under a bilateral deal signed with Hanoi last year.

Last December 51 people classed as economic migrants rather than political refugees were deported to Vietnam from the British crown colony.

Hong Kong security chief Geoffrey Barnes, who also attended the U.N.-sponsored meeting, stressed the urgency of mandatory repatriation to deter people setting out from Vietnam after the seasonal change of winds in March.

He said Hong Kong could not cope with another influx of 35,000 people, the number that flooded in last year. He warned of growing pressure to push boats of asylum seekers back out to sea. There are some 109,000 boat

people in camps in the South East Asian countries of first asylum, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines, according to UNHCR figures.

Of these, 56,000 are in Hong Kong. The 12,000 people who arrived before June 1988 were granted automatic refugee status. The rest are subject to screening procedures to determine if they class as genuine political refugees.

The UNHCR has said about 7,000 people have so far been screened in Hong Kong. Some 85 per cent of these were deemed to be economic migrants.

Since last March 1,100 people have returned voluntarily and a further 1,400 are registered to go back. All voluntary returnees receive \$50 from the refugee agency and qualify for a year's food aid from Hanoi.

In pressing for mandatory repatriation to be postponed until next year, the United States had argued that more time was needed to enable the voluntary programme to work.

Religious, nationalistic, ethnic factors fuel Caucasus turmoil

By Andrew Katell
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — What began as an attempt to settle a centuries-old territorial dispute has erupted into an all-out crusade by Azerbaijanis and Armenians to achieve ethnic, nationalistic and religious goals.

Suspensions and hostilities with deep historical roots are fueling the wave of unrest that began two years ago and escalated Jan. 13 into brutal ethnic attacks and open warfare.

The latent tension was exacerbated by current conditions in the Caucasus: The feeling that economic and political reforms have not improved people's lives in the largely undeveloped region plagued by unemployment and environmental woes.

Such diverse observers as chess champion Gari Kasparov, an Armenian Jew who fled the Azerbaijan capital Baku during the violence, and Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh agree that ethnic and not religious motivations are foremost. Armenians are predominantly Christians and Azerbaijanis Shi'ite Muslims.

Western scholars call it an ethnic conflict with religious overtones. Fanatical Azerbaijanis vowed to drive all Armenians off their land.

The Azerbaijani People's Front, which has spearheaded the anti-Armenian campaign, has also called for their republic to secede from the Soviet Union and establish "special ties" with Iran and other Islamic countries.

It is not just idle talk. Most Armenians were indeed forced out, and the People's Front was involved in the destruction of border defences on Soviet Azerbaijan's frontier with Iran earlier this month. Protesters called for reunifying Soviet Azerbaijan and the two Azerbaijan provinces of Iran, a region that was part of Persia until Russian expansion under the czars forced its division in 1828.

The current conflict has turned the rugged hills of the southern Caucasus into what even Soviet officials have called President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's Lebanon — the most protracted and bloodiest manifestations of the ethnic strife sweeping the Soviet Union and one of the most serious crises the president has

faced.

It has encompassed 15 million people, including residents of both republics, as well as members of the two ethnic groups living in neighbouring Georgia and southern Russia.

Temper of Armenians and Azerbaijanis flared for nearly two years whenever politicians in Baku, the Armenian capital Yerevan or Moscow reached decisions concerning Nagorno-Karabakh, the poor, small hilly district of 186,000 people, mostly Armenians, that is claimed by both sides.

Nagorno-Karabakh became a battle cry that woke up ancient hostilities between Armenians and Azerbaijanis. The weekly Ogonyok magazine last week published an appeal to Armenians and Azerbaijanis to "win over each other with love and forgiveness, not weapons and fire." The appeal dates back to July 1990.

But there has been little attempt to hide the hatred. As the feud produced hundreds of thousands of refugees, the hatred increased and the stones, torches and guns came out. Hostages were taken, railroad bridges blown up, water pipes severed and homes burned. Troops sent in to restore order were ambushed.

The voice of reason has been losing out to extremism, said Arkady I. Volsky, formerly Kremlin's hand-picked administrator of Nagorno-Karabakh. The point was driven home to him after meeting with elderly Armenians and Azerbaijanis in a village.

"The oldest emerged from the meeting in a mood of reconciliation. But young people, inflamed by nationalist rhetoric, did not go along with them," Volsky told the magazine New Times.

Much of the bitterness, he said, comes from refugees, who account for 10 per cent of the district's population.

"These uprooted people are behind all the rallies and disobedience campaign. They are the base for every kind of extremism," the Kremlin official said even before the latest and most bloody flare-up.

An estimated 22,000 Armenian refugees from Azerbaijan have settled in their home republic, many without jobs or homes and more than willing to take up arms

to fight those who drove them away. Unemployment in Armenia is reported to be 18 per cent.

Refugees are also prime recruits for ethnic militants in Azerbaijan, where unemployment is even higher, 27.6 per cent. More than 200,000 Azerbaijanis fled Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia. The Soviet press has suggested it was these downtrodden Azerbaijani refugees who attacked Armenians in Baku, to drive them out and grab their apartments.

Class antagonism also may have played a role. Many of the Armenians living in Baku were better educated than Azerbaijanis and financially in privileged positions because of their jobs in the oil industry that dominates the city.

National pride and sovereignty are other factors driving the unrest. Azerbaijanis saw Armenians' attempt to regain Nagorno-Karabakh as an insult to their national pride, and Moscow's attempts to mediate as an infringement on their sovereignty. "Without Shusha, Azerbaijan has no soul," goes an Azerbaijani saying that refers to a town in Nagorno-Karabakh that historically has been peopled by Azerbaijanis.

Armenians, particularly sensitive to threats to their survival since an estimated 1.5 million of their ancestors perished at the hands of Ottoman Turks in 1915, are driven by the feeling that their people were discriminated against in Nagorno-Karabakh under Azerbaijan leaders, cut off from their culture, religion and adequate schools and hospitals. They equate Azerbaijanis with Turks, whose language resembles theirs.

The Armenians' solution: End the separation of Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia, whose leadership is more sympathetic.

Both sides accuse Moscow of indecision that made matters worse. The anti-Soviet factor took on added significance after Soviet troops seized Baku on Jan. 20, killing dozens of people. The action brought more support for a complete political break with Moscow, and led to attacks on Baku's Russian residents.

The Azerbaijani People's Front published a statement charging that Moscow provoked the Jan. 13 rampages against Armenians in Baku.

Ethiopia struggles with civil war and famine threat

By Frances Kerry
Reuters

ADDIS ABABA — Addis Ababa's bustling main market displays piles of grain, fruit, spices and rich-smelling cheese. The voice of an Ethiopian pop singer croons from a nearby record shop, and the only signs of war are posters advertising Rambo films in the video shops.

But Ethiopia, one of the poorest countries in the world, is struggling with severe drought and a civil war is raging in the north.

Residents in Addis Ababa say many of the ragged beggars in the streets are peasants who have been trapped into the city to escape fighting between government troops and the rebel Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF).

Buy the Ethiopian Herald and read about another "glorious victory by troops and citizens united to defend the motherland."

Tune into the rebels' clandestine radio stations and hear another version — a "glorious victory" by the TPLF and its allies against President Mengistu Haile Mariam's government.

The visitor gets only hints of trouble in Addis Ababa, a sunny city where fading imperial villas, lush parks and mountains on the skyline add a dash of colour to the mass of corrugated iron-roofed houses where most people live.

But just over 160 kilometres to the north, the government is pulling out all the stops to counter a spectacular military advance by the TPLF.

Like the government, the TPLF is led by Marxist-Leninists, but it has fought since 1974 to oust Mengistu and set up a broad-based administration.

Preliminary peace talks with the TPLF and another rebel movement which is seeking independence for the Red Sea province of Eritrea began last September and are due to resume this year.

But talks seem to have been put on the back burner while the TPLF and the army slug it out for military advantage.

The TPLF overran the whole of the northern province of Tigray last March and in August began a steady advance south towards Addis Ababa with its small ally, the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement (EPDM).

The rebels seized large areas of Gondar and Wollo provinces and in December penetrated the central province of Shoa, where the capital is situated.

But in late December the government counter-attacked, pushing the TPLF out of a handful of towns it had occupied in Shoa and attacking its front line in Wollo and Gondar.

Ethiopia's state-run media has given rare prominence to the fighting and says the rebels are on the run.

But foreigners have been banned from the war zone and it is difficult to confirm this.

"It's hard to say whether this is part of the ebb and flow of war or a real push by the government," one diplomat said.

"It may be very small gains by the government but it is at least a morale-booster," said another.

He said morale was hard to drum up when teenagers were being recruited in droves as soon as they sprouted a moustache.

The TPLF also has its problems.

It began as a regionally-based movement seeking autonomy for the Tigrinya people of northern Ethiopia and has difficulty convincing many Ethiopians it is now truly national in scope.

Diplomats said the TPLF's move south into areas inhabited by Ethiopia's politically dominant Amhara people was resented by many Ethiopians.

The TPLF's willingness to accept Eritrean secession, and admiration expressed by some leaders for Albania's hardline Communism, also alienated potential supporters, they added.

The war has only added to the

plight of peasant farmers in the north whose crops have once more been devastated by drought.

Aid experts say two to four million people will need food aid this year. Up to half of them are behind rebel lines, where relief agencies would have difficulty going.

On January 17, the government bowed to pressure from international donors and said local church relief agencies could take food across rebel lines into parts of northern Tigray where crop damage was particularly severe.

"The government could not be seen to be responsible for a disaster by not allowing this," one relief official said.

The scheme may eventually be extended to the whole of Tigray, where up to a million people are at risk of starvation. Mengistu is under pressure to broaden his government and negotiate an end to a civil war which is destroying the country's youth and swallowing more than half the budget.

The Soviet Union has joined Western countries in calling for a negotiated end to the conflict, and Moscow is likely to reduce arms deliveries when its present military supplies agreement with Ethiopia expires next year, diplomats said.

Last May, several of Mengistu's own top military commanders attempted a coup, seeking peace with the rebels and the formation of a broader-based government.

LETTERS

What is this all about?

To the Editor:

I don't get it. What are all these stories about freedom of the press and democracy about? In my letter to the Editor which appeared on Jan. 25, I wrote one sentence with seven words referring to depressing articles on Jordan's economy, and I got censured! The purpose of my letter was to point out that humour has a place in the press, particularly in the Jordan Times, and particularly during these depressing times. In emphasising my point I wrote the following:

"After reading about Israeli oppression, the kidnapped in Lebanon, civil war in Russia, Iran's human rights violations, UNRWA's budget problems, Sudan's junta, and McEnroe's bad behaviour, not to mention articles on Jordan's economy, I need to have something to laugh about."

What's so bad about that line? Can you find any reader in the Kingdom who is happy about our present state of the economy? In the spirit of the time, when our deputies are standing up with courage and speaking their minds, is there still room in the press for such petty censorship? Is there really a new freedom of the press, or is this just another illusion? I will close in the words of my censor... "and so on, and so on."

Karen Ashour

Deputies call on government to tackle economic crisis, reduce unemployment and preserve social fabric

Faris Nabulsi

Deputy Faris Nabulsi (Amman) criticised the draft budget by saying that parts of it were either unrealistic or misguided. He cited 10 areas in which the government could be taken to task in presenting its draft budget to Parliament.

On the question of revenues, Nabulsi urged the minister of finance to explain the reasons behind the government's "optimistic" projection of increased internal revenues from JD 117 million in 1989 to JD 212 million in 1990, and of increased income tax collection from JD 54 million in 1989 to JD 100 million in 1990, "especially in the light of depressed markets in Jordan, high unemployment and recession."

The Amman deputy called on the government to review its policy of exempting certain establishments, like the Housing Bank, from paying "taxes and fees" that they otherwise should pay.

On projected Arab financial aid to Jordan, which is estimated at JD 162.6 million in the draft budget, Nabulsi wanted to know whether the figure would be received in full, and if not, whether the government had plans to meet any shortfalls that might result from Arab and friendly countries not meeting their commitments to Jordan.

The deputy questioned the "assumption of increased foreign loans by 98 per cent over 1989" and asked why Jordan could not avoid such loans since "we have lost confidence in their value in development."

Nabulsi also questioned budgetary policies on foreign and local debts and asked whether Jordan might not be able to avoid paying its foreign debts as part of a concerted effort by the Third World to solve the problem with developed countries.

On the issue of inflation, Deputy Nabulsi urged the finance minister to elaborate on the devaluation of the dinar and its effect noting that inflation was negative before the decline in the value of the Jordanian currency and then shot up to 25 per cent. He questioned whether the 13 per cent inflation envisaged in 1990 is in comparison to 1989 inflation or 1988 inflation figures.

Nabulsi called on the government to be selective in subsidising basic commodities so that poorer families can benefit from it.

He concluded by saying: "My understanding of the draft budget is that it is a plan to revitalise the economy and raise the standard of living. But since it depends on obscuring facts and does not differ much from earlier draft budgets which have led us to the present situation, I hereby announce my rejection of the draft budget."

Abdul Hafiz Alawi

Deputy Abdul Hafiz Alawi expressed support for the financial committee report and called for organising the administrative system to curtail overspending. He underlined the need to increase spendings on the National Aid Fund, the Ministry of Health, The Telecommunication Corporation, and the Ministry of Higher Education by increasing scholarship allocations.

Stressing the need to conduct a careful study of indebtedness, Alawi proposed a number of measures to control expenditure. These include withdrawing government cars used by individuals, merging the Higher Council for Science and Technology with the Royal Scientific Society, cancelling the job of advisor at a number of ministries and departments, cancelling contract jobs which are usually held by people with high income, reducing the number of directors in some departments, restructuring the administrative system, controlling government vehicles all the time, evacuating all buildings with high rents occupied by Royal Jordanian as well as the National Medical Institution and other institutions, reducing the number of staff at Jordanian embassies, increasing the number of productive projects, and rationalising the consumption of fuel and electricity.

Deputy Alawi also discussed the needs of Madaba and Thibani districts. He called for increasing the number of qualified imams, rehabilitating teachers and promoting education, improving medical services, increasing support for municipalities, exerting efforts to avoid water shortages in summer, promoting tourism, renovating buildings about to collapse, promoting sporting and cultural activities, and preserving the rights of labourers working at factories in the district. He, furthermore, called for solving humanitarian problems of Gazans living in Madaba camp and improving a number of services.

Mohammad Tarawneh, Abdullah Zureiqat

Deputies Mohammad Faris Tarawneh and Abdullah Zureiqat (Karak) questioned various figures which appeared in the budget both in revenues or expenditures. They made their joint remarks on taxes, higher government revenue and fees by asking how it could be achieved without imposing extra burden on the citizens.

The two deputies said that servicing Jordan's debts consumes 30 per cent of export earnings and, as such, Jordan should cooperate with other debtor countries and reconsider the agreements with the creditors to benefit the Kingdom in the first place.

Tarawneh and Zureiqat noted that in the absence of budgets for various independent government or semi-government institutions, the Parliament cannot formulate a total clear understanding of the Kingdom's finance especially that those institutions cover nearly JD 700 million in expenditure.

They stressed the unemployment issues citing nearly 60,000 people are without work. As well, they noted that subsidies were not fairly distributed giving as an obvious example more than 300,000 non-Jordanians who benefit from it. The deputies recommended that subsidies be shifted to productive areas which can turn basic food items currently being subsidised.

The deputies finally waged a fierce condemnation over the lack of sufficient agriculture allowances in the budget.

Ahmad Abbadi

Dr. Ahmad Aweidi Abbadi (Amman) went beyond the 1990 budget to launch attacks on information and medical areas. However, in his economic coverage he requested a more fair pay to employees whose salaries shrunk considerably in the past months due to high and unbearable inflation.

He called for stricter control on market operations to limit price increases on all items noting that many luxury items are essential nowadays.

Abbadi criticised the distribution of subsidies saying that thousands are beneficiaries when they should not be, especially foreign workers.

The Amman deputy did not spare corruption in his remarks by calling for harsh measures against all those who "stole funds or manoeuvred to manipulate public benefits."

Awni Al Bashir

Dr. Awni Al Bashir — Balqa — in his speech questioned the government policy of subsidies. He said that subsidies benefited higher income groups at the expense of low-income citizens. He said that the percentage of families with a total income below JD 100 a month was 21 per cent in cities and 31 per cent in the countryside, and that 100,000 families have an average income between JD 100-150. He said that subsidies should be directed only to these groups.

Bashir blamed Jordan's problems on lack of proper planning. He said proper planning depended on accurate and precise information and statistics, but planners lack these tools. He cited higher education plans that aimed at catering for the needs of neighbouring markets for Jordanian labour and said that because of inaccurate information Jordan ended up with thousands of community colleges graduates unable to find jobs.

Bashir urged the government to put planning at the head of its agenda and asked:

1) that a political decision give planning priority at government institutions.

2) that budget allocations of JD 8.5 million for research and development be rechannelled in a "sensible manner."

3) that every government institution should fully cooperate with the Department of Statistics.

Bashir urged the government to ensure the independence of government-owned funds by the appointment of professionals rather than politicians to run such establishment.

He said that although he understood that while pension revenues in the budget amounted to JD 13 million and expenditure JD 83 million, because the fund was still in its early years, he could not accept that Jordan Investment Corporation's profits from the investment of JD 252 million would only be JD 5 million — i.e. two per cent.

Bashir called on the government to support the General Federation of Jordanian Women to enable it to carry out its plans.

He called for cuts in the public expenditures of government institutions including Royal Jordanian, the Railway Corporation, the Armed Forces and the National Medical Institution.

Bashir then turned the debt of municipalities in the Balqa Governorate which he said should be rescheduled. He asked that 14 villages in the region be provided with electricity. He said that most people complain of high water bills and that many villages have no water networks. He also called for the building of health clinics in various parts of the governorate.

He said that while the Balqa Governorate is inhabited by seven per cent of the population, its allocation of university seats is only three-four per cent. He called for the building of new schools and the upgrading of existing ones.

Bashir called also for the building of country roads, post offices and consumer shops.

He also asked that the agriculture sector in the governorate be afforded priority and that water problems in the Jordan Valley region be addressed.

Bashir concluded by asking the government to reassess the situation at Abu Nusseir Housing District in order to help owners who have to pay instalment to be able to bear the brunt of the harsh times.

Hussein Mjalli

Deputy Hussein Mjalli (Jerash) requested the postponement of examining the budget until the Lower House looks into all temporary laws which the government based its budget upon, as well as all agreements which the

previous government had concluded with the IMF and the rescheduling of loans.

The deputy recommended that after a deep analysis of his requests the government should submit a new budget to be debated under new criteria noting that article 113 of the Constitution stipulates that if the general budget was not approved by the beginning of the new year, government spending should continue by special allocation — 12 to 1 ratio of each month of the previous budget.

Mjalli began his speech by emphasising that the budget is a "very strong weapon" which the government possesses and which cannot escape the screening of the Parliament as it translates the programmes and steps that the executive authorities plan to execute.

He stressed two facts which nobody should ignore. The first, he said, is Jordan's known heavy dependence on foreign aid and loans; and the second is the basic "threat to survival" which becomes more serious when unemployment, inflation and indebtedness complete the circle.

Mjalli called on the government to admit first of all that Jordanians are under heavy economic strains and that a national forum should discuss the crises to draw a strategy for Jordan during the 90s because no single group or government can shoulder the burden alone.

Noting the size and geographical location of Jordan, Mjalli recommended that Jordan strictly follow a pan-Arab path in the true meaning. He, moreover, belittled the private sector role calling instead for an efficient public sector drive which can lead Jordan's development.

Regarding inflation he saw the need to raise the tax on "high bracket income" citizens and on luxury items, imposing capital gains tax, and the continuation of the subsidies to the needy only.

Mjalli attacked "parasitic activities" and flatly rejected the privatisation banner in favour of developing and supporting the public sector.



(Above) Deputies Leith Shbeilat (left), Faris Nabulsi (centre) consult with Prime Minister Mudar Badran, and below Deputy Hamman Abdul Rahim Said consults with Deputy Ahmad Qutab (seated) — Photos by Yousef Al 'Allan



The Jerash deputy said that Jordan's agreements with the IMF, World Bank and other creditors should be thoroughly reviewed because these institutions confront Jordan for their own interest not the interest of the Jordanian people.

Mohammad Alawneh

Deputy Mohammad Alawneh called for "a new start based on logic, conducting criticism in its proper place and time, looking for the source of the problem and discussing it with its concerned side, and abiding by frankness and daring." Alawneh said that his views coincided with the financial committee report on the budget. He also criticised the failure to complete projects related to asphalt roads in Irbid and neighboring villages and called for solving problems related to shortages of medical centres and social development centres in Kafir Asad and Taybeh districts.

Alawneh also called for proper maintaining of water pipes in Irbid Governorate to avoid water leakages and for promoting agricultural projects.

Faisal Al Jazi

Faisal Al Jazi — southern bedouins — urged the government to continue its support for the armed forces and security departments. He asked that a pension for armed forces personnel be raised. In the rest of his speech Jazi put forward several demands for his constituency. He asked that the Aqaba port and all factories in the south give priority to employing southerners instead of foreign workers.

He urged the government to open new roads, post offices and health clinics. He urged the government to solve the problems of land ownership in the south and to help farmers in the region reclaim land through government aid and the pumping of underground water. He said that some villages lack electricity and asked that the government build a high-voltage network for the region.

He also asked that the government should extend various services to the region and pledged to provide the land necessary for building government offices in the area.

In a clear reference to Deputy Ahmad Muneem Abn Zant's controversial speech in the Lower House of Parliament Jan. 1 during the government confidence session, Jazi said "Jordan will not allow anyone to compromise Jordan's security and stability; nor will Jordan allow any idiot to teach us about the country's history or the deeds of its men who died for the defence of Palestine."

Ahmad Kafaween

Deputy Ahmad Kafaween said that country's past should serve as a lesson for the future.

Calling on people with power to set good example to other sectors of the society, Kafaween branded the draft budget of being "traditional" and "falling short of finding clear solutions to tackle the problem of poverty and to consolidate socio-economic structure."

He also called for merging institutions that constitute a "burden on national economy" — such as the National Medical Institution, the Ministry of Youth, and Chief Justice Department — with other institutions." He furthermore criticised the increase in current expenditure in 1990 by 13 per cent over the year before. He stressed that overtime work, which costs JD 3 million is being distributed as favours with only personal interests behind it. He called on the government to erect government building rather than rent them because that costs JD 4,738 dinars.

"The budget failed to discuss activities of several institutions which has great effect on the national economy such as universities, the Central Bank of Jordan, and Royal Jordanian. The 1990 fiscal budget failed to provide directives to control the activities of government institutions and companies such as the Ministry of Agriculture, the Natural Resources Authority, the Jordan Electricity Authority, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, Jordan Fertiliser Company, Jordan Potash Company and Jordan Timber Company. What did they spend? How did they spend? and have they attained their objectives?" he asked. Kafaween also criticised the budget for failing to include any expenditure for Karak Governorate apart from renovation of the Karak castle. He called for increasing allocation for Mu'ta University, developing medical centres, promoting agriculture, and improving other services.

Yousef Azem

Ma'an Deputy Yousef Azem put the problems of unemployment, hiking prices and the decline in people's living standards as the main problems facing the Kingdom's economy.

He asserted that the government was exacerbating the unemployment problem by importing foreign manpower and creating imbalances in the labour market. "Our greatest tragedy is that while we suffer the burden of unemployment, we are feeding this problem by importing labour that we can make do without," Azem told the House.

He said that rising unemployment combined with the devaluation of the dinar and the resulting price increases "made life intolerable" for Jordanian families.

Azem, who is a member of the Islamic Brotherhood, said civil servants and particularly soldiers, security personnel, teachers and truck drivers were the most vulnerable groups in society and that they were increasingly finding it difficult to live on their salaries.

He called on the government to adopt new economic ideas conforming with "the comprehensive Islamic approach."

He urged the government to ease farmers' debts and to adopt a new Islamic banking system that would enable people to "participate in development of the country and attract Islamic capital from abroad."

Azem said the government must "solve or limit the poverty problem and enhance socio-economic values through implementing the zakat system and

establish a special institution to make collecting zakat obligatory."

He called for "a forceful adoption of the Islamic alternative and leaving an Islamic mark on all departments and institutions in all fields so that the Islamic alternative would gradually replace existing laws."

The Ma'an deputy, who did not discuss the draft budget's allocations, then proceeded to review problems facing his constituency, offering proposals for infrastructural projects and a better exploitation of the governorate's resources.

Muteir Bustanji

Karak Deputy Muteir Bustanji, who is a member of the House financial committee, called on the government to reduce dependence on borrowing and to encourage local investment.

"We look forward to the adoption of the draft budget as a comprehensive national plan that takes into consideration the enhancement of the state's economic institutions," Bustanji said in a brief speech.

He called on the government to take measures towards readdressing the problem of creeping urbanisation and towards developing local resources and giving local government more autonomy by adopting a decentralised approach.

Reflecting the same approach adopted by most other speakers Saturday, Bustanji called for austerity but went on urging the government to allocate funds for building infrastructural projects and public services for his constituency.

Issa Raimoni

Jerash Deputy Issa Raimoni delivered a lengthy speech in which he diagnosed the ills of the Jordanian economy and urged the government to take action on major issues.

He said that there were 84,000 Jordanian families "suffering from severe poverty" and that by the end of 1994, there would be 391,000 unemployed among educated Jordanians.

"Are we capable of finding jobs for all these people over the next five years?" he asked. Raimoni did not say where he obtained the figures from but warned that "the worsening unemployment will sooner or later lead us to a very difficult situation which we may not be able to handle."

He blamed previous governments for the accumulated foreign debt and called for revitalising the private sector, increasing local investment, instituting administrative reform and adopting a new economic strategy that promotes exports and boosts the Kingdom's balance of trade.

"In fact," Raimoni said, "we need a radical reassessment of everything, beginning with the bread and ending with institutions." He expressed hope that Badran's government, which came along with the democratic transition, would be able to tackle the social and economic challenges, although, he recognised, the prime minister "does not possess a magic wand or Solomon's ring."

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DEAD OF A BROKEN HEART

Both vulnerable North-Jack.

NORTH

♠ Q 10 5

♥ A K 5 3

♦ A K 3

♣ K Q

WEST

♠ 7 6 3

♥ 7 6

♦ 10 5 3 2

♣ 2 10 9 8 5

EAST

♠ 4 5

♥ Q 10 9 2

♦ Q 8 4

♣ A 7 6 3 2

SOUTH

♠ A K J 9 4 2

♥ K 7 6

♦ 7 6

♣ 4

The bidding:

North East South West

1♣ Pass 3♥ Pass

3♦ Pass 4NT Pass

5♥ Pass 6♣ Pass

6♣

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

Playing at six spades after a club

lead, should you take a heart or a

diamond finesse for your contract?

Answer this question before reading

on.

North-South conducted an ex-

cellent auction to arrive at an ex-

cellent small slam. Once North

confirmed that his jump shift was, in part, based on a spade fit, South trotted out Blackwood (and settled for six spades when he learned that an ace was missing).

We hope our question didn't talk you into trying one of the red-suit finesses for your slam. After East wins the ace of clubs and returns the suit, declarer can claim his slam as long as hearts are no worse than 4-1.

On the second club declarer should discard a heart from hand, then draw the outstanding trump—three rounds in this case. Next comes the king of hearts and, when both defenders follow, it is all over but the shouting.

Declarer crosses to the ace of hearts, ruffs a heart, gets back to the table with the king of diamonds and ruffs another heart. This sets up the 13th heart, and the ace of diamonds is still in dummy as an entry so that declarer can discard his diamond loser.

What if there is a 5-0 heart division? Most unlikely, but all is not yet lost. Declarer can still try the diamond finesse for his fulfilling trick.

THE Daily Crossword

by Lucie Sanitary

ACROSS

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'Steaua's games were rigged'

BRUSSELS (R) — Matches between Romania's two leading soccer clubs, Steaua and Dinamo Bucharest, were rigged, Romanian international striker Rodion Camataru said.

Camataru told the Belgian daily De Morgen in an interview published on Friday that Steaua's Valentin Ceausescu, son of former dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, rigged games against Dinamo.

"It was impossible to win against Steaua. They were Almighty," said Camataru, 31, who joined Belgian club Charleroi this season after three years with Dinamo.

"I played in the (Romanian) cup final in which the Steaua team walked off when an offside goal was disallowed. The next day the goal was declared valid by decree and Steaua won the cup," Camataru said.

"Another time my goal was disallowed for an imaginary offside position. The referee restarted the match as the 11 Dinamo players surrounded the linesman, and Steaua scored," the

said.

Camataru, who won the golden boot as top scorer in European League football with 44 goals in 1987, said reports claiming the Romanian League was entirely manipulated were exaggerated.

"It involved mainly the games between Steaua and Dinamo. Referees did not want to be involved in those games because Valentin Ceausescu was always shouting orders from the stands."

He said Steaua, the army team, only managed to win the European Cup in 1986 after they had stolen the country's best 13 players from other clubs two years earlier — without paying transfer fees.

"Those clubs got some other players instead. If they refused to let go of their best players, they received a phone call from Valentin Ceausescu... Nobody dared to say no because of the terror."

Dinamo, who were associated with Ceausescu's notorious secret police, are seeking to revert to their pre-war name Unirea Tricolor.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JANUARY 28, 1990

By Thomas S. Plurson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Take it easy today. Use self control. Be gentle. Others are apt to break promises or discontinue from the program you are promoting. You can handle the changes and profit.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Socially, be willing to go on a jaunt with a good friend and you will meet new people. You will have more financial benefits today.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Friends connected with the arts and sciences will be able to bring you some good times today. Show your affection more clearly to the one you love.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) An unusual project from a distance should have your undivided attention. Suggestions from an understanding friend will help very much with mate.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You will be able to make a friend of an influential person today if you are not too direct. Entertain your mate at outside places today.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You will be at the top of the heap today if you will be very social. Be more understanding of what your attachment wants to be more romantic.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You will have a good time by being social with good friends. Your family as well as your own ideas on business will bring you much money.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) New friends and those of distant background to you are the best for you today. A new attitude towards your attachment will bring

you more happiness. SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You would be wise to make friends now of your younger business contacts. Business activities or interest from a distance can help you now.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Greater coordination in recreation with those you like will make your entertaining more enjoyable. You can have much romance today, but don't over do.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Now you will be able to entertain your friends and repay the social obligations that you have built up. You will have your most romantic time now.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Make a point to be with the friends you understand the best and you have a happy social time. A dream will now come true for you where business is concerned.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Older friends who understand you are your best outlet for a happy social time now. Some outlet and products that the public like are good for your business.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she has the ability to solve many types of problems in a very constructive fashion. An impersonal and objective standpoint can get this child almost anything that he or she desires, whereas taking conditions personally and subjectively can render your progeny ineffective because they can feel imposed upon.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN:

Graf wins women's singles title

MELBOURNE (AP) — Steffi Graf survived a surprisingly tough match against gritty American teenager Mary Joe Fernandez to win the Australian Open women's final Saturday and capture her third straight grand slam title.

Graf, winning the Australian for the third successive year and notching her 48th consecutive match victory, came back from a break down at 1-4 in the second set to beat Fernandez, 6-3, 6-4.

"I didn't play my best by I won it," said the number one-ranked Graf. "Mary Joe played as I expected her to. When you're in a grand slam final, you tend to play your best."

Fernandez, ranked 11th, was justifiably proud of being able to play a close match against Graf. "In the second set, it was a point here and a point there. I should have won it," said Fernandez. "I played pretty much with her during the match."

Only a few key points made the difference in the well-played, tense duel in which Fernandez, 18, of Miami, Florida, displayed poise and savvy as she exposed a weakness in the 27-year-old West German's game.

Fernandez, playing her first

grand slam final, pounded her two-fisted backhand into Graf's relatively weak backhand side, then came back with winners down the line to Graf's forehand.

Graf made 14 of her 27 errors in the second set on her backhand, as the tall, lanky Fernandez kept the ball deep and generally prevented Graf from attacking the net as she likes to do.

Graf, winner of Wimbledon and the U.S. Open last year and nine grand slam singles titles overall, put away only two volleys in the match — both in the second set.

But if Fernandez found a chink in Graf's armor, Graf also exposed one in Fernandez's. Virtually all of Fernandez's errors came off her forehand — 17 of 22 in the first set and 17 of 25 in the second set.

The match thus came down to each trying to use her strengths — Graf's forehand, Fernandez's backhand — and exploit the other's weakness — Graf's backhand, Fernandez's forehand.

Graf broke Fernandez only once in the first set to go ahead 4-2 as Fernandez mishit a backhand wide and netted a forehand, then went on to take the set in 33 minutes.

Fernandez finally broke Graf in the second game of the second set when Graf hit one of her many wide backhands on break point. Graf saved two break points after falling behind 0-40 on Fernandez's whistling forehand return of service down the line, but couldn't hold the game.

When Fernandez took a 4-1 lead, Graf was starting to think about a third set.

"Yeah, I thought that was possible," Graf said. "But I felt she was getting tired. I was prepared to play a third set more than her."

But Graf broke back in the seventh game after saving a game point. Fernandez popped a backhand wide on a mishit for the break.

Graf polished off her own service with an ace, then went ahead 5-4 with another break. Graf won the last two points of the game on a short, sweet cross-court backhand that flew past Fernandez after she came in on a drop shot, and then a forehand that Fernandez netted.

"When it was important, I was serving well. Otherwise, I tried to hit it too hard," Graf said. Graf served out to win the match in one hour, 21 minutes.

Steffi Graf and picked up \$190,000 for the victory. Fernandez earned \$94,500, putting her career earnings over \$550,000. Graf, winner of nine grand slam events, including all four in 1988, has won \$5.4 million in her career.

Fernandez said the match taught her that "I know I can do it — play well enough to reach the finals. Hopefully, the next time I'll be prepared better."

Fernandez said that she has known Graf for 10 years and is a friend of hers, though the competition between them makes it harder to be close.

F.A. CUP

Bristol shocks Chelsea

LONDON (R) — Third division Bristol City joined the ranks of giant-killers when they sent Chelsea, with in the first division, crashing to a 3-1 defeat in the English Football Association (F.A.) Cup on Saturday.

Striker Robbie Turner gave the third division leaders, who are managed by former Scotland international Joe Jordan, a dream start to the fourth round tie, scoring in the fourth minute after Chelsea's England goalkeeper Dave Beasant had fumbled the ball in slippery conditions.

He struck again when he broke through unmarked six minutes after the break to increase City's lead, but only after he hit the post with his first effort. Kevin Wilson pulled a goal back six minutes from time but as Chelsea looked like they might scramble a late equaliser, Mark Gavin secured City's triumph with a third goal in the dying minutes.

Aston Villa, who share the lead of the first division with Liverpool, were the day's biggest scorers, crushing second division Port Vale 6-0 at home.

Holders Liverpool, last season's losing finalists Everton and Manchester United go into fourth round action on Sunday.

Three players were sent off in a rough Scottish premier division match at Dunfermline, where pace-makers Rangers won 1-0.

England's David Platt opened Aston Villa's account in the seventh minute with his 19th goal of the season. Paul Birch and Stuart Gray added two goals each and Ian Olney one as the record seven-times cup winners ran rampant in the second half.

Villa must be confident of reaching the final for the first time in 35 years after a brilliant display orchestrated by midfielder Gordon Cowans in their 11th home win in a row.

Fourth division Cambridge United held first division strugglers Millwall 1-1 away. John Taylor replying four minutes after the break for the visitors after Tony Cascarino's first-half opener.

League champions Arsenal were held to a goalless draw at home by fellow-first division side Queens Park Rangers but Southampton and Crystal Palace reached the fifth round.

A 59th-minute goal by Neil Ruddock was enough to see Southampton through at home to second division Oxford while Palace thrashed third division Huddersfield 4-0. Mark Bright's goal taking his tally for the season to 13.

Fourth division Rochdale won 3-0 at home against third division Northampton, the giant-killers of the previous round who eliminated first division Coventry, cup winners two seasons back.

South Africans win men's doubles

MELBOURNE (AP) — South Africans Pieter Aldrich and Danie Visser won the Australian Open men's doubles title Saturday with a 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 victory over Canadians Grant Connell and Glenn Michibata.

The first grand slam championship by Aldrich-Visser gave them an \$82,000 prize to share. Connell and Michibata split \$41,000.

Aldrich and Visser have played together for two years and have won five titles together, but none as big as this. Ironically, they almost didn't play in the tournament.

"Obviously we feel very good," Aldrich said. "We thought about taking time off and not coming here, but we thought we'd have a chance of doing well, so we came."

The Canadians might not have

come away from the match with the winner's trophy, but they made history. They were the first Canadian men's team ever to make a grand slam final.

"From the minute we beat (Rick) Leach and (Jim) Pugh to the end of today's match, I had a great time," said Connell. "I wish we could have won, it would've been nice. It almost felt like playing Davis Cup, knowing there was live Canadian TV and Canadian fans here."

The Connell-Michibata team also were responsible for knocking out the top seeded American team of Leach and Pugh, the two-time defending champions, in the semifinals.

The South Africans played smart tennis as they kept Connell-Michibata off-balance on their return of serves.

ARABIC LANGUAGE COURSE

The Jordanian Federation for Women intends to hold an Arabic language course (all levels) for foreign women in Jordan. The course will start on Saturday Feb. 3, 1990 at its headquarters at Jabal Al Hussein.

Monthly payment is JD 10. For more information please call tel: 666897, 601600

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The projects directorate / Ministry of Education announces the issuing of the following tender which is part of the 7th Education Project No. 2890-J0, sponsored by the World Bank.

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Closing date will be 10:00 a.m. of March 8, 1990.

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Tyson not interested in Foreman

NEW YORK (AP) — The word out of Tokyo is that heavyweight champion Mike Tyson has neither the time or inclination to fight George Foreman — now or ever. "George Foreman is not in my future — no way, no how, no time, no place," Tyson said, according to John Solberg, manager of media services for Don King productions. "I've got to get by Buster Douglas first, then after that Holyfield. I'm just sick of hearing about Foreman." Tyson will defend against James "Buster" Douglas on Feb. 11 at Tokyo.

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Drug carriers discovered among air crash victims

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Two of the passengers who died in the crash of a Colombian jet and at least one survivor of the doomed flight were smuggling cocaine into the United States in their digestive systems, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

A spokeswoman for the DEA said that doctors who treated victims of Avianca Flight 052 that crashed Thursday night on Long Island had told the DEA that a number of passengers were "body-carrying" cocaine.

"Two deceased and at least one person who was alive were found body-carrying," said Mary Cooper, a DEA spokeswoman. "We often find people bringing drugs in in balloon-like containers. We've seen as much as up to kilo before. You swallow it, bring it into the U.S., and here it passes through the digestive system."

Cooper said cocaine traffickers often "body-carry" between 250 and 500 grammes of cocaine in their digestive system into the United States. She estimated cocaine's current street value at between \$70 and \$100 per gramme.

The ill-fated Boeing 707 was on a flight from Bogota to New

York, via Medellin, the drug capital of Colombia. Officials say the country is the source of 80 per cent of the cocaine smuggled into the United States.

A spokeswoman at the North Shore medical centre on Long Island said that one injured survivor of the crash had been x-rayed prior to surgery and that "unusual shadows" had been detected in his digestive system.

The patient, a 30-year-old man, was rushed into surgery at North Shore University Hospital for abdominal bleeding, the spokeswoman said. When doctors opened his abdomen, they found condoms filled with a white powder believed to be cocaine, she said.

The man, whose name was not known, was in critical condition.

Weather, fuel

The last leg of Flight 52 disintegrated into a series of delays, ominous weather reports and increasing fuel worries, followed by abrupt silence, according to investigators and new reports.

Cockpit voice recordings analysed Friday show the flight crew reported several times that the plane was running out of fuel

before it crashed 25 kilometres short of Kennedy international airport.

The U.S. TV network NBC reported that the flight was delayed three times as it flew up the east coast, being placed in holding patterns once above Norfolk, Virginia, and twice over New Jersey.

The delays totalled 75 minutes — so long that when the pilot was asked if he could be diverted to Logan airport in Boston to avoid the bad weather, he said he did not have enough fuel to make it there, NBC said.

At that point, controllers ordered the plane directly to Kennedy, NBC said.

Officials of the National Transportation Board (NTSB), which is investigating the crash, refused to comment on the report.

Lee Dickinson, an NTSB member, released information obtained from a preliminary analysis of the cockpit voice recording. The recorder continually monitors conversations, preserving the last 30 minutes.

Early in the tape, "there is some conversation among the crew about the fuel" in the plane, Dickinson said.

Noriega denied bail

MIAMI (AP) — A U.S. judge ordered Manuel Noriega held without bond Friday after his attorneys repudiated the court's jurisdiction, insisting the deposed Panamanian general be declared a prisoner of war and sent to a neutral country.

Government prosecutors suggested that Noriega may have placed a voodoo-type curse on the federal district court judge, William Hoeveler, and on U.S. Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, the nation's top law enforcement official.

The government said Hoeveler's and Thornburgh's names were found at a Noriega office where a black magic altar was discovered during the U.S. invasion of Panama in December.

Prosecutors argued against releasing Noriega on bail, saying he has enough money to flee to another country. Among his known assets, they listed homes, bank deposits, sports cars and other property worth up to \$30 million, including \$5.8 million in cash found at his Panama ranch.

They also called the 51-year-old Noriega an expert in counterterrorism and covert actions who still has a loyal band of armed followers.

"Mr. Noriega is an extraordinary danger to the community," prosecutor Myles Malman told Hoeveler, noting that the former Panamanian leader faces up to 145 years in prison if convicted on all the drug trafficking charges against him.

Defence attorney Frank Rubino opened the hearing by telling the judge the defence would not participate because it challenges the jurisdiction of the U.S. courts.

Noriega sat quietly nearby in military uniform listening with interpreters' headphones. In a legal motion delivered Friday morning to President George Bush and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Noriega's lawyers said he "claimed the status of prisoner of war pursuant to the Geneva convention."

"There can be absolutely no question, whatsoever, that the invasion of Panama by the United States military totally and completely fulfills the definition of armed conflict," Rubino said, reading from the motion.

Hoeveler did not consider the motion immediately, and Malman began his arguments against releasing on bond.

As part of his presentation, Malman implied that a curse may have been placed on Hoeveler, Thornburgh and two other men whose names were found on a white sheet of paper confiscated by U.S. troops at Noriega's Fort Amador office — referred to as the "witch house" because of black magic paraphernalia discovered there.

The other two named on the list were Charles Saphos, head of the Justice Department's drug section, and Mark Schnapp, a former Miami federal prosecutor who helped bring about Noriega's indictment on drug charge in February 1988.

"Maybe I better not enter it into evidence," the judge joked as Malman handed him the list.

Malman said the government would show that Noriega has a \$400,000 condominium in Paris, and that \$5,800,000 in cash was found in envelopes marked "confidential" in his three-story home in Panama. The prosecution also introduced photos of deposit slips showing that Noriega's 17-year-old daughter deposited \$1.3 million in Panamanian banks in September 1989.

"The U.S. government has frozen \$20 million in Noriega assets — \$4.8 million in Luxembourg, \$2.3 million in France, \$8 million in Switzerland, \$1.6 million in Austria and \$3.5 million in other accounts that we do not wish to disclose at this time," Malman said.

The prosecution maintained that Noriega also transferred about \$19 million from his account at Bank of Credit and Commerce International's London branch to its Luxembourg branch a week after the indictment was unsealed. It was not clear whether the deposits and seizures duplicated in the prosecution's listings.

In addition to the vast sums Noriega was said to have deposited overseas, Malman said Noriega also had friends in countries at odds with the United States, including Cuba and Libya.

Noriega has been held without bail since he was flown to the United States Jan. 4 and jailed in the federal courthouse basement here to face 12 drug-trafficking counts from the 1988 indictment.

Asked by Hoeveler at the end of the session whether he wished to rebut prosecution arguments, Rubino replied by reciting Noriega's name, rank and serial number — 0001.



Islamabad police arrest a Kashmiri man protesting against the killing of Muslim militants in Indian-controlled Kashmir.

Security forces launch crackdown in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (Agencies) — Security forces searched homes in curfew-bound Srinagar and offered big rewards for help in capturing militants leading a separatist revolt in Indian-ruled Kashmir, police said Saturday.

But they said the summer capital of north India's Jammu and Kashmir state, where bloody clashes between security forces and protesters have killed 50 people this week, was generally quiet.

State authorities have announced curfew-breaks will be shot on sight. Three people have been arrested during house-to-house searches since Friday, police said. Police defused a live bomb found on a Srinagar street Saturday.

Thousands of Indian troops have been deployed around the city 800,000 in the picturesque Kashmir valley to help quell a rebellion that has been intensifying for the past 18 months.

Armoured vehicles blocked streets and machine gun nests have been set up in sensitive neighbourhoods, witnesses said. "Visiting journalists were still confined under armed guard to the city's main hotel after their curfew passes were revoked Thursday. A senior police official said reporters were liable to in-

flame already high tensions in the city.

The journalists have been prevented from making phone calls from the hotel or sending news stories by telex.

The right-wing Hindu chauvinist Bharatiya Janata Party called for "Save Kashmir Day" demonstrations Saturday throughout India "to foil the dubious designs of Pakistan-trained terrorists in the Kashmir Valley."

India accuses Pakistan of supporting the Kashmiri militants who seek independence or merger with the neighbouring Muslim state. Islamabad denies the charge.

The two countries have fought two wars over Kashmir. India controls two-thirds of the territory, and Pakistan the rest.

Thousands of angry Kashmiris marched through Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-ruled Azad (free) Kashmir, Friday calling for an Islamic holy war against India.

The protesters burned effigies of Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh, shouted "down with Indian imperialism" and vowed to back Kashmiri "freedom fighters."

Sikander Hyat Khan, prime minister of the Pakistani-controlled region, gave the United Na-

tions until Feb. 17 to schedule a special session on a 1948 resolution that calls for Kashmiris to vote on whether they preferred independent or union with either India or Pakistan.

"If the United Nations is not ready to play its role... I will tell them to go and fight," Khan said. He said his deadline coincides with a meeting he has called of Pakistan's political and religious parties in Islamabad.

In New York, a spokesman for U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said the U.N. was closely following developments in Kashmir but would have no comment on the violence.

Meanwhile, Mansoor Suhail, press officer for the Pakistan mission to the United Nations, said Friday that Pakistan had not asked the Security Council to convene a special session on the situation in Kashmir.

Tariq Mahmood Butt, head of the student wing of the militant liberation front, said Muslims would swarm into Indian-controlled territory Feb. 11 unless the United Nations promised action.

He said the front operates independent of Khan and would refuse to wait until Feb. 17.

Feb. 11 is the fifth anniversary of the hanging death of Maqbool Butt, a secessionist leader.

Rebels mount assault on 6 southern villages in Philippines

COTABATO, Philippines (AP) — About 1,000 suspected Muslim rebels attacked six southern villages Saturday, triggering sporadic clashes with defenders that sent 5,000 villagers fleeing, the military said.

Brigadier-General Orlando Soriano, the army regional commander, said the attacks all began at 1 a.m. (1700 GMT Friday) in villages in north Cotabato province, about 945 kilometres southeast of Manila.

He said at least one woman villager died in a crossfire and that an undetermined number of villagers, soldiers and rebels were killed or wounded.

Fighting was reported to be continuing in the Christian-dominated villages of Glinatitan, Sili, Pamalian, Lidingan and Panican between government forces and suspected rebels of the

Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

Soriano said the attackers burned several homes. Government troops backed by two helicopter gunships and mortar fire responded by attacking several suspected hiding places of the insurgents, the military leader added.

Soriano said the motive for the attacks was still under investigation.

Earlier Saturday, suspected communist rebels shot a member of the presidential guard in suburban Manila, then ran his body over before fleeing, police said.

Sadri Cadapan, a 39-year-old member of President Corason Aquino's guard force, died of multiple gunshot wounds, said police investigators Michael Tambawan.

Tambawan said the soldier was

attacked by three gunmen early Saturday on a busy avenue and that suspicion fell to the Communist New People's Army.

He said the killers had stalked the soldier, shooting him several times in the head and back with handguns.

One of the gunmen flagged down a passenger jeep, ordered the driver and his wife to get out, then drove over Cadapan's body and dragged it for about 100 metres before they fled in the vehicle, Tambawan added.

The jeep was recovered in the northern suburb of Quezon City, he added.

In Pangasinan province, government troops captured the deputy commander of a dawn raid Saturday on his lair in Arayat town, said Efrén Fernandez, a Philippine constabulary official.

Haiti to lift emergency

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Haiti's military ruler says he is lifting a 30-day state of siege under which the security forces rounded up dozens of political activists and forced at least seven into exile.

Speaking live Friday night on government radio and television, Lieutenant-General Prosper Avril said the state of siege would be withdrawn Tuesday — 15 days early — "in view of the positive results already obtained."

It was unclear whether Avril was bowing to diplomatic pressure or had concluded that his 16-month-old government had succeeded in quieting the opposi-

tion in Haiti. Earlier Friday, France said it was suspending economic assistance and talks on a \$500 million aid package for Haiti, one of the world's poorest nations, to protest Avril's crackdown on political dissidents.

The 12-nation European Community (EC) also issued a protest Friday. And Avril was under pressure from the United States, which denounced the state of siege as a "blatant assault on basic civil liberties."

The United States suspended \$60 million a year in direct aid to Haiti after election violence in 1987.

Avril did not say Friday night

whether the seven exiled opposition leaders would be allowed back, but the interior and defence minister, Fritz Romulus, had said they could take part in planned elections in October.

The military also did not indicate whether censorship imposed on independent radio and television stations would be lifted.

Avril, wearing his uniform and sitting at his desk at the national palace, addressed the nation before the start of the nightly news on state television. He read from a prepared text in French, rather than Creole, the language of 90 per cent of Haiti's 5.7 million people.

Beauty queen and the journalist — more spicy than a soap opera

By Peter Gregson
Reuter

LONDON — A courtroom drama over "playboy editors" and a former miss India described as a "sexy adventuress" has gripped Britain's popular press and raised questions over manners and morals in the media.

In the latest turn of a long-running sex scandal that millions of Britons are following more closely than a soap opera, the editor of the heavyweight Sunday Times sued one fellow editor for libel and said another was a rival in love.

At the heart of the case is Pamela Bordes, a 27-year-old one-time beauty queen and former House of Commons researcher accused by some British newspapers of being a call-girl and a security risk. She has denied the allegations.

The Sunday Times editor Andrew Neil, a 40-year-old bachelor, admits to having had a four-month affair with Bordes in 1988.

During that time, he told London's high court Wednesday, editor Donald Treford of the Observer — another serious, leading Sunday newspaper — unsuccessfully vied for her favours.

"Rivals for the hand of a lady," the London Evening Standard's front-page headline exclaimed. The mass-selling Sun newspaper viewed it slightly differently: "Dirty Don tried to pull my Pam says Andy," it trumpeted the next

day. In March last year, the muck-raking Sunday newspaper News of the World Sensationally alleged Bordes was a prostitute who had offered sex to a reporter for £500 pounds (\$800). She briefly went into hiding in Bali, before being tracked down by British tabloid newspaper reporters.

It was all too much for the August and disapproving Peregrine Worsthorpe, then editor of the ultra-conservative Sunday Telegraph.

In a signed leading article headed "Playboys as editors," Worsthorpe, 66, took Neil and Treford to task for conduct unbecoming of their grand office.

Neil sued Worsthorpe and the Sunday Telegraph, saying they had implied he knew Bordes was a prostitute during his affair with her.

Worsthorpe, now the paper's review editor, denies Neil's interpretation and says his article was a fair comment.

Taking the witness stand in his own defence Thursday, he decreed that editors of great newspapers should be serious men who did not frequent "café society" and did not adopt "the morality of a pop star."

Asked to define "café society," Worsthorpe told the jury he had in a mind a social circle "where one would be unlikely to run into the governor of the Bank of England, the archbishop of Canterbury, the prime minister or even an archdeacon."

Noting that Bordes had approached Neil in a popular London nightclub and given him her telephone number, Worsthorpe said Neil should have realised she was "a gold-digging adventuress" and "not have touched her with a barge-pole."

He added, "I don't think nightclubs are suitable venues for editors of quality newspapers."

Worsthorpe said both Neil and Treford had been imprudent to be photographed publicly holding hands with Bordes and "lived lives which could be appropriately described as playboy." Their behaviour was "a watershed in manners and morals" which deserved comment, he added.

The relationship between Neil and Bordes, he added was "an imprudent infatuation by a public man for an extremely sensuous and voluptuous girl whose charms he was unable to resist."

Asked to define the term "bimbo" he had used to describe Bordes in his article, the elegant, silver-haired Worsthorpe said he meant "an obviously very attractive young girl who tends to bat her eyelids and has a very attractive frontal."

When Neil testified earlier, he was asked by a baffled judge to explain the phrase "ageing bimbo" used in some newspaper articles about the case. Neil expressed ignorance. The trial continues.

THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Ertson

IT'S ABOUT TIME

By S.E. WILKINSON

ACROSS
1 Code name
2 Cat — tails
3 Oull
4 Ulligan
5 Aphorism
6 Lewine or
7 Brak pace
8 Play girl
9 Diabolic
10 Eccentric
11 Dullard
12 And — for
13 Every pain (fr.
14 Giffian
15 Peter or Jane
16 Snapper
17 He's embracing
18 Come Johnson
19 Birth place
20 Makes clothes
21 Techniques
22 Break forth

DOWN
1 Specks
2 Cat — tails
3 Oull
4 Ulligan
5 Aphorism
6 Lewine or
7 Brak pace
8 Play girl
9 Diabolic
10 Eccentric
11 Dullard
12 And — for
13 Every pain (fr.
14 Giffian
15 Peter or Jane
16 Snapper
17 He's embracing
18 Come Johnson
19 Birth place
20 Makes clothes
21 Techniques
22 Break forth

37 Perchance
38 Mighty mite
39 A Germain
40 Get the trend out
41 Set the trend out
42 Song —
43 Assassinate
44 Clear-cut
45 Hideaway
46 Good for
47 Variety of agate
48 Durocher
49 Doctor's ASAP
50 "Lila" —
51 walking
52 Shakespeare
53 Official stamp
54 Highest level
55 100% abor
56 Ice house
57 Rubber tree
58 Enthusiasm

61 Little women
62 Sprawl
63 By hook — crook
64 Some like it hot
65 Place of paper
66 Lucy's friend
67 Ethel
68 As a friend, fr.
69 "Lat — bull
70 Cord
71 Make a salad
72 The finish
73 Tropical stirring
74 Minus
75 Demure
76 Pandoristic book
77 Real eye opener
78 Foreign and
79 American
80 Longest river in the world
81 One — time
82 Confusion of
83 Confusion of
84 Author Bret
85 Building
86 Extension
87 Affection
88 Pave roads
89 Negative volat
90 Like some zeals
91 Great review

92 Exams
93 Towel
94 Particular
95 Particular
96 Erects
97 "Thou — before
98 me
99 Sublease
100 Rich for
101 Park, CO
102 Necessity

103 Exams
104 Towel
105 Particular
106 Particular
107 Erects
108 "Thou — before
109 me
110 Sublease
111 Rich for
112 Park, CO
113 Necessity

108 William
109 Drain
110 Father Rolle TV
111 show
112 Interdict
113 Lad
114 Atlanta arena
115 121 San —, It.
116 Theatre area
117 Existed
118 School on the
119 Themes
120 On the
121 ball
122 Free
123 Antidote
124 Victor
125 Borge s.
126 "I Am Woman"
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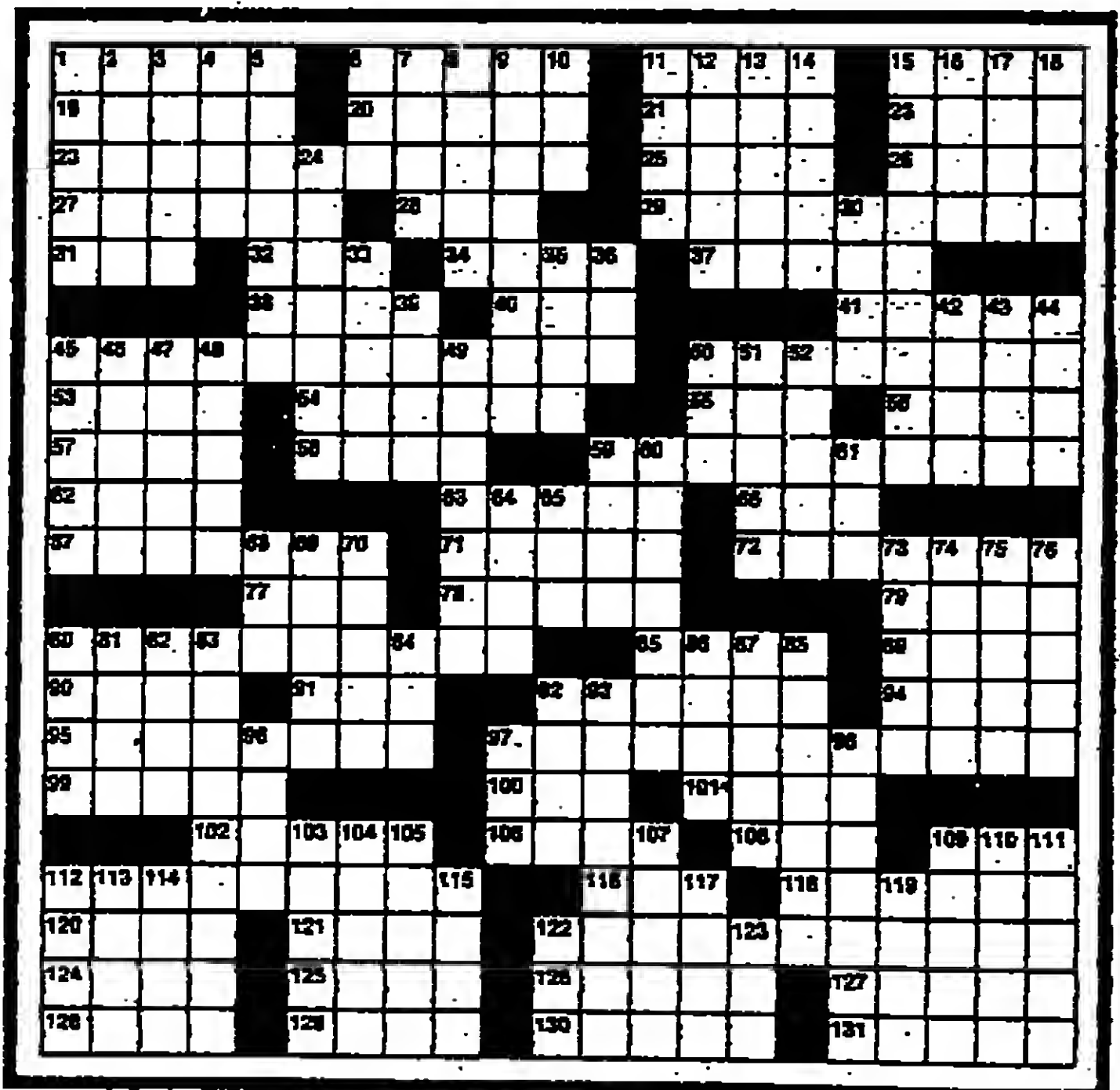
93 Stationary
94 Nomad pad
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98 104 — man with
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100 Dud
101 107 Spectacle
102 Gaits
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111 Spruce
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120 23 Pro d. d. g.

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Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Pretentious partisans' patched patchwork presented poor picture for her fancy prancing.
2. As pangs, fair weather friends and a plethora of good things will go hand in hand.
3. I moved visitor at Hawaiian luau was told to leave, and then
4. Stock broker sold interest bond to best client.

CRYPTOGRAMS

L A R N E C I S S E C E A P I A B B I T E S P I E L A
E A N F B R O S P I R A P S P E A U N I P R O U D
E D I T I T L E

2 C O N T E Y O I B S E P H I M I O M O W F O P I A I M
U M I M S G P Y I A U T I M P I P E F O W S A Y L
I I O E T R E Y C A R P I Y I M R E G M M P

A V R C U M H I Z R I E O M S F M A I B Z W I L L
L Z M U I M C I N R A I E R I E H E B E J M S J B V I
A R W B I L

4 C H O W Z P Y B N S O P Y W C H E A S Y B I F Z W C H E F
Y P A E L Y C H E F

SOLUTIONS OF
LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

CRYPTOGRAMS
L A R N E C I S S E C E A P I A B B I T E S P I E L A
E A N F B R O S P I R A P S P E A U N I P R O U D
E D I T I T L E